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WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
THE COMMON CAUSE
OF HUMANITY.

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To spend that shortness basely were too long.

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Notes and Comments.

Hyde Park Meetings.

Last week we commented on the recrudescence of rowdyism in the Park, and called upon law-abiding Suffragists to rally to the support of the speakers at the N.U.W.S.S. meetings, which are held each Sunday at 3.30 near the Reformers' Oak. Last Sunday there was a splendid muster, Mrs. Fawcett herself spoke, and was supported by a large number of members of the London Society of the N.U.W.S.S., as well as of the Men's League and others. A most successful new departure was the "manning" of the gates by the law-abiding Suffragists, in the N.U. colours, distributing leaflets, and selling THE COMMON CAUSE, this service being rendered by some of our distinguished international guests, including Frau Rosika Schwimmer (Hungary) and Dr. Mia Boissevain (Holland), as well as various well-known English Suffragists outside the Union, among whom were Miss Kathlyn Oliver, and others.

The rowdy element was again present, but was held so well in check that all our speakers made their speeches with success, and the meeting closed with three ringing cheers for Mrs. Fawcett and for a Government measure for Woman's Suffrage.

Those who can do so without neglecting other duties to the cause, should come every Sunday without fail and should send in their names to the N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W., or to the London Society, 58, Victoria Street, S.W. Miss Margaret Robertson will be among the speakers next Sunday.

The Channing Arnold Case.

Mr. Wilson replies this week to certain points raised in our correspondence columns in the issue of June 5th. An article from his pen has already appeared in *The English Review* for June, and he hopes to make a further statement in *The Contemporary* for July. As those who have followed the case are aware, Mr. Arnold, Editor of *The Burma Critic*, has suffered the penalties of the law for accusing certain British officials—as the Courts have held without due care, as many who have studied the facts hold with justification—of shielding a man against whom lay grave suspicion of the blackest of crimes done to a little native girl, Aina. Mr. Wilson claims that a further civil action, now pending against Mr. Arnold in this matter at Rangoon, should not proceed. He claims that even if it could be argued, which he denies, that Mr. Arnold had been guilty of insufficient justification for his accusations, he has been already severely punished by four months' imprisonment, and that those he accused have been able to state a full case on their own behalf, while he has been denied by the ruling of the Courts from making good his own position. Mr. Wilson holds that to press the Rangoon case against Mr. Arnold will be a grave moral injustice of such a character as seriously to imperil the position of all who work towards purity of administration in our Indian Empire. Lest it should be, that the most grievous and horrible wrong can be done against a native child under our flag, and none dare to speak out, we urge upon our readers to make themselves acquainted with the facts and bring their conscience and their most considered judgment to bear upon them.

Women's Liberal Federation.

The W.L.F. Council Meeting last week was an event of first-rate political importance. Among those who made brilliant speeches at it in support of its resolution demanding a Government measure for Woman's Suffrage was Mrs. F. D. Acland. It is with great pleasure that we call the attention of our readers to an article from her pen on the subject of the Council Meeting, which, together with the report of "Outsider," conveys an admirable impression of what occurred.

Plural Voting Bill.

This Bill passed its third reading on the 15th. We report elsewhere the severe criticism to which the Government was subjected by Lord Hugh Cecil and others for having broken its pledges to the women in the matter of franchise reform.

British Wives and Foreign Husbands.

Lady Abercorway concludes a forcible letter to *The Times* on this subject with the following words:—

"The Aliens Bill when passed by the British Parliament has yet to be considered in our Colonial Parliaments. Only their Government officials have as yet agreed to the proposed changes. It remains to be seen what democratic Legislatures will do in defence of a married woman's right to preserve her nationality. Women in this country will be very grateful to any Parliament in the British Dominions which will reject all the clauses of the Bill referring to married women, and will substitute for them a recognition of the full right of all British women who marry aliens to remain British subjects. This right of retaining British nationality on marriage was enjoyed by British women from earliest times until the year 1870, when it was taken away by Parliament on the plea of masculine convenience. It is this Act of 1870 we seek to repeal."

Mr. Roosevelt, Ex-President of the United States, and the Law-Abiding Suffragists' Queen's Hall Meeting.

In connection with the London Society's Demonstration at the Queen's Hall meeting this (Friday) evening, Suffragists will be entertained by the following story: Miss Strachey decided that Mr. Roosevelt must speak on this occasion if he was in England. She therefore travelled all night, and on reaching Plymouth took a ticket to Cherbourg on the ex-President's ship, the "Olympic," boarded that vessel, proceeded to book a cabin, and awaited events. After the usual crowd of pressmen and suchlike had been carried back to Plymouth on the tender, the Secretary of the London Society sent in her note to Mr. Roosevelt. In reply to this came Mr. Philip Roosevelt, who, after carrying a further communication, returned with a message from the ex-President stating that he would have much pleasure in receiving her. He greeted the representative of the law-abiding Suffragists with great cordiality, and discussed the movement at some length, reiterating his belief in the cause. He explained that he was irrevocably booked to leave England on the 18th, but owing to this enterprising attempt the satisfactory fact remains that the ex-President carries back with him to America full knowledge at first hand of the law-abiding Suffragist movement in this country. We understand that a few tickets are still available for the meeting and can be obtained at the Hall.

Alexandra Day.

Many Suffragists will no doubt don the Alexandra wild rose on June 24th, as well as their Suffrage badge. In view of the crying need for more women on hospital medical staffs and boards of management, we urge that the contributions of women should be sent direct to hospitals which recognise this.

The only general hospital in London which has women on its staff is the Royal Free in Gray's Inn Road. In addition to this, there are five hospitals in London entirely staffed by women: the New Hospital for Women in the Euston Road, the South London Hospital for Women, Clapham Common, the Canning Town Women's Settlement Hospital, the Women's Hospital for Children in the Harrow Road, and the Clapham Maternity Hospital, Jeffries Road, Clapham. Donations in support of any of these may be sent direct to the addresses given.

Conference of the International Abolitionist Federation.

At this conference, in session at Portsmouth as we go to press, Mr. Philip Wickstead is reported to have made the following pregnant observations: "The regulation question used to be held to be for doctors, soldiers, and police. These specialists are valuable witnesses, but execrable as jury or judges. The popular feeling of women has taught doctors health, policemen order, soldiers the efficiency of the army."

The Parent of the Child.

A married woman is not in law the parent of her child; the unmarried woman is, and upon her may rest not only a part, but the whole responsibility for her children. A case lately stated before Mr. Justice Coleridge, Mr. Justice Atkin, and Mr. Justice Avory by a stipendiary magistrate of Liverpool, will be followed with painful interest by Suffragists, for it would appear from *The Times* report of this case on June 11th, that it is possible for a man to escape all responsibility for his illegitimate children, while living in the same house as them and their mother.

Women and Politics: How to Solve the Present Difficulty.

Mrs. Besant intends to speak on the above subject at the Queen's Hall on the 23rd. Those who profoundly disagree with her views in religion and in politics, as well as those who agree, know, if they have listened to her, that she is a woman justly commanding respect. Whether what she said of India last week was wholly accurate only those who know the country can judge, but the hearts of Suffragists burned within them as she discoursed on the great themes of justice and of liberty, and the atmosphere became charged with electricity. Now and again a militant endeavoured to voice her feelings in a manner subversive of courtesy and order, but in the presence of a speaker and audience loving moral force and believing supremely in it, all such attempts were still-born. We repeat that Mrs. Besant's views on "How to solve the difficulty" will merit attention.

In Parliament.

Wednesday, June 10th.

Civil Services and Women.

The debate on the Holt Committee's Report was resumed.

Mr. Touche (N. Islington, U.) referred to the case of the women telegraphists and women counter clerks and telegraphists in London who get no increase, and are not affected by immediate wage concessions, and said that Mr. Holt had made a statement to the effect that it would be illogical to raise women rateably with men, but that he (Mr. Touche) was of opinion that the reverse was the case. "The conditions which justify a rise for men such as telegraphists and telephonists, surely justify a rise for women telegraphists and telephonists. Where the women are not ignored they are treated in a most niggardly manner." He instanced the case of charwomen in London, who are to get 5d. an hour, but only after five years at 4½d.

The Power of the Vote.

Mr. Joynson-Hicks (Brentford, U.) was of opinion that the present system of settling postmen's wages by means of pressure put upon Members of Parliament could not go on. Members "had been forced" to take up two days of Parliamentary time on these questions "which ought not to come before the House at all."

The reason given by Mr. Joynson-Hicks for "these questions" coming up was "because there is an infirmity in all of us to try and do the best for our constituents." Not that his constituents wished to exercise undue pressure, "but they realise that the only way by which they can get their grievances remedied is by going to their Members of Parliament and as politely as possible insisting upon their grievances being brought before the House by him."

Other members, speaking in the debate, alluded delicately to this "pressure" from their constituents. It is not surprising that the women employees, who are not in the enviable position of constituents, have been "ignored and treated in a niggardly manner."

Mr. J. Dundas White (Glasgow, Tradeston, L.) called the attention of the Postmaster-General to the great disparity between the wages of the women sorting clerks and telegraphists in the provinces and the men employed in the same work, and the difference in the maximum wage, "even assuming that the work of the male workers is more efficient than the female workers." The women get less than two-thirds of what the males receive. Mr. Dundas White also pointed out the evil effects of the extremely low wages paid to the female telephonists, namely, their inability to pay for good food, and the consequent lowering of their vitality, resulting in sickness.

Mr. Dickinson (N. St. Pancras, L.) challenged the statement made by Mr. Holt that the work of the male and female telegraphists in the provinces was not equal. Mr. Dickinson contended that the work given by women to the State was in a great majority of cases equal in value to that of a man, and that even if it were not so, there was no justification for the enormous disparity between men's and women's wages.

Mr. Hobhouse said the Government could not disregard the chorus of criticism which had arisen in regard to the Holt Report, and they proposed to set up a Committee to consider such issues upon the Holt Report as had been raised in the debate and to report whether any and if so what further adjustments in their proposals beyond those already made by the Government were necessary or desirable.

Thursday, June 11th.

Subscribers to Militant Suffrage Societies' Funds.

The question of the Government's dealings with "militant outrages" was raised by Lord Robert Cecil (Hitchin, U.). He believed that the policy of the "Cat and Mouse" Act had been unsuccessful, and that the Government had made a series of mistakes in the administration of the law in regard to "militants." The most serious mistake the Government had made was the way they had played with the question of Women's Suffrage in the House, and the "devices, manœuvres, and tactics which they had resorted to time after time to deprive these women of a fair decision upon their case by this House." Lord Robert Cecil drew a distinction between the actions of the "Suffragettes" and what had taken place in Ulster. The former he characterised as anarchy, the latter as rebellion. "Between anarchy and rebellion is an enormous gulf." He advocated deportation as a remedy for militancy.

Mr. McKenna (Home Secretary) defended the "Cat and Mouse" Act, and gave figures in support of its deterrent effect. In 1912 the number of commitments to prison (including repetitions) reached the total of 290. In 1913 (since the Act came into force) the number of individual offences had greatly decreased, the number then being 183, and so far in 1914 it had dropped to 108. He expressed regret that the Press of all parties were giving prominence to the outrages of the "militants," and was convinced that "the immediate effect of the denial of all advertisement of militancy would do more to stop their actions than anything the Government could do." The Home Secretary asked members "not to be misled into exaggerating the amount of injury done by these women." A certain number of the crimes attributed to Suffragettes, particularly burning, "was really the work of *bonâ-fide* criminals, who burn down their houses for the sake of the insurance money." He instanced two cases of prosecution of persons who, after burning down their houses had scattered Suffragette literature about the premises, in the hope of diverting suspicions from themselves.

He rejected the various suggestions put forward for dealing with Suffragettes, and said the Government hoped to be able to proceed against the subscribers to the militants by civil action, and if they succeeded the subscribers would become personally liable for the damage done. They were also considering whether the subscribers could be proceeded against criminally.

Mr. Cave (Surrey, Kingston, U.) spoke of the seriousness of the position, and supposed that it was "for the first time in the history of our lives that a body of persons were deliberately using crime to further their political aims." Mr. Cave's memory for political events is apparently a very short one.

Mr. J. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil, Lab.) referred to the statements made by certain "militant prisoners" over their names, to the effect that drugs had been administered to them by the prison authorities, and asked if there was any foundation for these serious allegations.

Mr. Wedgwood (Newcastle-under-Lyme, L.) did not think they were "justified in repressing panic in a moment of panic. It was their duty to consider the rights and wrongs of these people who have acted in this way. To see how far their cause was just, and to act according to justice."

Plural Voting Bill.

Mr. R. A. Sanders (Bridgwater, U.) moved the rejection of the Bill. He said that the measure was brought forward by the Government solely in the interests of their own party, and he resented it "as a low-down trick."

Mr. G. N. Barnes (Glasgow, Blackfriars, Lab.), in the course of his speech in support of the Bill, said: "I would give every woman a vote, because every woman, just like every man, has to obey the laws of the country and contribute to the welfare of the country." He referred to some of his colleagues who, he said, were determined to vote against the Bill because it did nothing for women. "That is a chivalrous and generous position to take up, but I cannot rise to it." Mr. Barnes expressed the belief that the Bill would make it easier to get votes for the women.

Lord Hugh Cecil (Oxford University, U.), speaking against the Bill, dealt at some length with the question of Women's Suffrage and the pledges given by the Prime Minister to Mrs. Fawcett's deputation.

"I look at the pledge (or one of them) given by the Government to the advocates of Women's Suffrage when the large Reform Bill was in contemplation. I quite agree that the Government may verbally say, 'We kept our promise.' I do not make the charge that they have verbally broken it. I do not think they have, but I do think that they have done a thing which no honest man would do in any private transaction with those who trusted to his honour. I am quite sure there is no member of the Government who would act in a private capacity to any person whatsoever as they have acted in their public capacity to the advocates of Women's Suffrage. They destroyed the 'Conciliation' Bill when it had great prospects. . . . It was torpedoed as the Chancellor of the Exchequer said. . . . The Government had pledged themselves very deeply to carry the Reform Bill, and to give a fair chance to the advocates of Women's Suffrage to amend it. . . . The Government were prevented. It was not their fault, but does anyone say that when you are prevented from carrying out a pledge so definite, so clear, so oft repeated that people who care profoundly felt that the Government was deeply pledged, that that ends the matter? They (the Government) are content to ride off on a very strict and technical interpretation of their pledge, and not merely make good what in spirit and intention were the hopes they had raised in the minds of the advocates of Women Suffrage."

The Bill would, no doubt, concluded Lord Hugh Cecil, "pass triumphantly through this House, leaving not only in the minds of the advocates of Women's Suffrage a strong and natural and legitimate sense of wrong, but also leaving with the Government an additional stain on already dirty hands."

The Bill passed third reading by a majority of 78.

Political Notes.

British Nationality and Status of Aliens Bill.

The Report stage of this Bill, the provisions of which were dealt with in last week's issue, was on the Order Paper of the House of Commons for June 9th, but it has not yet been taken. The National Union has sent a letter to all M.P.'s, pointing out once again the anomaly of refusing representation to women in a Parliament which deals constantly with matters affecting them as closely as does this Bill.

Abolition of Half-Time.

Mr. Denman's Bill for the abolition of the half-time system—which was read a second time last February, and has since been dealt with in Standing Committee—is down for second reading on Friday, the 19th.

A careful inspection of the half-time statistics available in typical Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Cheshire industrial centres during the last two years reveals a progressive increase in the number of half-time children employed in factories. The total number of such children working in Burnley, Oldham, Rochdale, Halifax, Bradford, Stockport, and Hyde was in 1911, 10,629; and in 1913, 11,603, an increase of 974, or 9 per cent. The proportion of increase is greatest in the Lancashire towns, where it amounts to no less than 13 per cent. during the two years.

Women's Liberal Federation.

Impressions of the Council Meetings.

By an Outsider.

If you want to attain a goal you take the road which leads to it—*Qui veut la fin, veut les moyens.*

The Women's Liberal Federation wants Women's Suffrage: it wants it quite sincerely. It wants (or frequently says it wants) to have true democracy and equality. But the road to these things must be broad and smooth—the going must be easy. And the one primary point is that their menfolk must remain in power. If a constituency can only be fought by a wealthy man, and that man a Liberal Anti-Suffragist, why then they will support him and salve their consciences by saying they do so "without enthusiasm." But there is to be nothing risked for the sake of the equal representation of the people—or, I am tempted to add, for anything else. Indeed, in listening to the proceedings at the Queen's Hall last week, I could not help feeling that if any political reform had to wait to be brought forward by the courageous Ministerialist leaders of the Women's Liberal Federation, the end of the world would find humanity waiting still. It was small wonder that a ripple of ironic laughter passed over the hall when one of the speakers alluded to the organisation as "the great advisory council of the Liberal party."

In speaking thus, I am speaking naturally of the majority and of those who lead them. When the cleavage came, as it did upon the exceedingly moderate resolution moved by Miss Alison Garland (North St. Pancras), seconded by Mrs. Corbett Ashby (Wandsworth),

> "That in order to ensure that the next Parliament shall contain a majority of members pledged to vote for the enfranchisement of women, this Council urges all Liberal women to help only those candidates who fulfil this condition."

There was an adverse vote of 465 to 400. Among those who spoke in support of the resolution were Mrs. Bracher, Mrs. Alderton, Mrs. F. D. Acland (who said that a similar resolution had been carried by the Federation's Executive in 1911, and it was, therefore, no new thing), and Mrs. Eva McLaren (who made a powerful restrained appeal to women Liberals to tell candidates before the General Election how deeply they felt on the Suffrage question). The opponents included Mrs. Cowan, Mrs. Walter Rea, and Mrs. Broadley Reid, who thought the proposal would have little effect. Mrs. Broadley Reid having delivered her speech, could not speak again, according to the ordinary rules after Mrs. McLaren's appeal to delegates to vote for Miss Garland's proposal. She rose, however, at the close of the latter's speech, to ask Mrs. McLaren whether she had written a letter in which she stated that she had withdrawn from the Home Counties Union an organiser whose salary she had hitherto defrayed? Mrs. McLaren replied that since the letter was signed with her name she had, of course, written it. The date, however, at which it was written was the spring of 1913, when feeling as she did after the Speaker's ruling on the Women's Suffrage amendments to the Franchise Bill, that Liberal Suffragists in the Houses of Parliament should have taken more vigorous action, she withdrew the organiser as the only effective protest she could make. She had, however, after a time, continued to give pecuniary help as before. Lady Carlisle from the chair said a few words to soften off the effect of an incident which, however, made an exceedingly disagreeable impression on many persons present who afterwards showed what they thought by applauding every public appearance of Mrs. McLaren more heartily than ever. The good taste and feeling with which Mrs. McLaren met this sudden attack were most noteworthy.

Liberal Women and Suffrage Candidates.

Miss Garland's proposal, I should explain, though it appeared as the substantive resolution on the agenda, was eventually voted on as a rider to a resolution moved by Miss Theodora Wilson (Kendal), seconded by Lady Cecilia Roberts, and carried.

> "That this Council believes that the cause of Women's Suffrage, together with all other democratic reforms, will be best served by the return of the Liberal party to power at the next General Election, and urges all Liberal women to secure in their respective constituencies the adoption of Liberal candidates pledged to vote for Women's Suffrage."

Somebody asked the practical question how the last part of the resolution was to be achieved, but no answer was forthcoming.

A resolution on the Suffrage question alone and stating among other points that "this Council emphatically urges the Government to make the enfanchisement of women a part of their programme at the next General Election," was moved in vigorous terms by Mrs. Acland, who said they would be very angry if the next Liberal Government did not help the cause forward and include women's enfranchisement in their next Reform Bill. Mrs. McLaren seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

Then there was the anti-militancy resolution, brought forward by Lady Carlisle, who was insistent that the Government must "shoulder the responsibility" for bringing the disorders to an end, and not expect women to do their work. There was a huge majority for this.

Resolutions Urging Social Reforms.

Whenever the delegates were absolved from party obligations, and were not scared by platform phrases about "sending the Liberal party into the wilderness," "letting the Tories in," &c., they showed a certain genuine desire for social and economic reforms. They carried a resolution (though rather tamely) in support of Mr. Herbert Samuel's Bill for the residential qualification in the case of candidates for County and Borough Councils. The forcible speeches of Mrs. Alderton, Miss Bertha Mason, and others in demanding a cheaper and an equal divorce law, and the carrying, as a Government measure, of the Bishop of London's Bill to amend the Criminal Law Amendment Act met with heartfelt sympathy from the audience; and a resolution was also carried expressing satisfaction at the appointment of the Royal Commission on the question of venereal disease, and the belief that there ought to be "a righteous moral standard for men and women alike."

Lady Aberconway, on behalf of the Executive, made an able and welcome protest against the exclusion of women from class I of the Civil Service, against the depreciatory view of the work of women in the service which several members of the Commission revealed in the Majority Report, and she and Mrs. Bliss willingly accepted a rider asking that for work "of equal value" women should be paid at the same rate as men.

Industrial Legislation.

There were resolutions, too, on Industrial legislation, demanding more women factory inspectors, shorter hours for laundry workers, and the bringing of the whole industry under the Trades Boards Act; temperance legislation, wages boards for agricultural labourers, housing and rating reform, and the limitation of armaments. To the last mentioned topic so much time was devoted at the final session that Education came off meagrely; but Miss Morland, Mrs. Raphael, and others did succeed in asking the Government to hasten the bringing in of its long-promised Bill, and to ask that there should be "a complete and broad education—without distinction of class or means, or creed or sex," that there should be convenient medical clinics, better provision for the feeding of school children, and more rigorous prohibition of children's wage-earning employment.

The election of the new Executive Committee excited much interest. The result was as follows:—

President, Rosalind, Countess of Carlisle; Hon. Secs., Lady Bamford-Slack, Mrs. Broadley Reid; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs Walter Runciman.

Committee:—Lady Aberconway, Mrs. F. D. Acland, Miss Mabel Billson, Mrs. Joseph Bliss, Mrs. Bonwick, Mrs. C. A. V. Conybeare, Lady Cowdray, Lady Fisher-Smith, Mrs. Freeman, Miss Alison Garland, Hon. Mrs. Fred. Guest, Mrs. Hawksley, Lady Horsley, Mrs. Lloyd George, Mrs. Thomas Lough, Miss Bertha Mason, Mrs. C. F. G. Masterman, Miss Lucy F. Morland, Hon. Lady Norman, Mrs. Walter Rea, Lady Cecilia Roberts, Miss Agnes E. Slack, Mrs. Handley Spicer, Mrs. Swann, Mrs. C. P. Trevelyan, Lady Yoxall.

M. H.

MRS. F. D. ACLAND ON THE WOMEN'S LIBERAL FEDERATION COUNCIL MEETING.

What is the upshot, as far as Women's Suffrage is concerned, of the Women's Liberal Federation Council Meeting? How does the situation compare with that immediately after last year's Council? In attempting an answer to this question I wish to make it clear that I am simply giving my personal opinion.

I say at once that the situation is one of great encouragement. To begin with, for the first time a resolution emphatically urging that Women's Suffrage should be made part of the next Liberal party programme was proposed to the Council. It was carried enthusiastically, with a mere handful of dissentients. This brings the Federation into line with other bodies of women working for the Suffrage in a demand for a Government measure. Again, the Council was unanimous in condemning militancy and calling upon the Government to shoulder the responsibility of bringing militant violence to an

end. The Council then turned to questions of policy. The whole Council agreed to a resolution urging all Liberal women to secure in their respective constituencies the adoption of Liberal Suffragist candidates. This resolution, like that calling for a Government measure, is another step in advance of anything brought forward in former years. On a further question of policy the Council was divided. What is to be done when, in spite of all efforts, an Anti-suffragist Liberal candidate is standing for election? On this point Miss Garland moved on behalf of North St. Pancras the following resolution: "This Council urges all Liberal women to help only those candidates who are supporters of the Suffrage." The resolution was lost by four hundred and fifty-six votes to four hundred.

In order to estimate the significance of this vote, it may be well to clear away certain misunderstandings as to its bearing upon the policy of the Federation as a whole. The official policy of the Federation remains as before. When a Liberal Suffragist is standing for election, the Federation sends one or more organisers to work for him, and sends a whip to neighbouring W.L.A.'s asking them to do likewise. When an Anti-suffragist is standing no official action is taken. The North St. Pancras resolution may be said to have been half-way between a resolution carried in 1911, which suggested (not urged) that Liberal women should only work for Suffragist Liberals, and a resolution moved by Tunbridge Wells and defeated last year, making that policy a condition of affiliation to the Federation. Therefore, as a result of this year's discussion, every Liberal woman belonging to the Federation is free to adopt, or not to adopt, the policy for which the Liberal Women's Suffrage Union stands, to join or not to join that Union, to take or not to take its pledge that she will only work for Liberal Suffragists. The Federation has refused by a narrow majority to give a lead to individual women. Personally, I do not regard that as wholly a misfortune. Each woman remains all the more responsible for her own action in the matter.

The general situation as compared with last year is, I think, more hopeful. Last year, when the Tunbridge Wells amendment was defeated, and on the next day the Dickinson Bill was defeated in the House of Commons, we were within measurable distance of a split in the Federation, which, to my thinking, would materially have weakened us as a fighting force for Women's Suffrage. The formation of the Liberal Women's Suffrage Union—the continued efforts of those who formed it to keep the advanced Suffragists within the Federation—have borne fruit. There is division of opinion within the Federation certainly, but there is also so much and so profound agreement on Liberal principles, including Women's Suffrage, that we can look forward to loyal co-operation among all our W.L.A.'s to advance the causes we all have at heart. One word as to the result of the ballot for the new Executive Committee. A majority of members have been returned who are known to all the delegates to be strongly in favour of the policy of only working for Liberal Suffragist candidates.

Eleanor Acland.

NEWS FROM ABROAD.

CAPE PROVINCE.

At a public meeting held at King William's Town it was resolved, with only four dissentients, to agree to the excision of the word "male" from the franchise clause of the draft King William's Town Municipal Ordinance now before the Provincial Council, and thus extend the municipal suffrage to women on the same terms as men.

DENMARK.

Kvinden og Samfundet reports that the municipality of Copenhagen have decided to appoint two policewomen. This brings the number of women serving in the Danish police force up to four. The first woman was appointed in 1911.

POLAND.

Mme. Melanie Berson, President of the Polish Women's Suffrage Committee, writes that her Committee has been organising a great public meeting, to which all members of the Diet were invited and a few attended. At this meeting M. Berson reminded his audience that within five years' time the revision of the electoral law must take place, and that Commission was very well disposed towards Women's Suffrage.

ROUMANIA.

We learn that a Roumanian lady, Miss Elisa Leonida, has just completed her examinations at the technical school at Charlottenburg and obtained her diploma as engineer. A correspondent of *The Near East* writes:—

"It will be interesting to see whether the young engineer will be able to follow her profession in her native land. So far, only lady doctors and chemists' assistants have been allowed. Although one lady succeeded in passing every examination for lawyer, she is legally not permitted to follow her vocation."

Sister Augustine of Salonica (Miss Nora Bewicke) has been presented by King Ferdinand with the Order of the Merit of Bulgaria and the Military Ribbon, in recognition of her services to Bulgarian prisoners and refugees during and after the late war.

SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT BEGINS IN SPAIN.

A national campaign in favour of Women's Suffrage is shortly to be started in Spain—which is one of the only three European countries in which there is at present no organised Suffrage Movement, the other two being Greece and the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg. The leader of the movement is Emilia Pardo Bazan, a writer of remarkable power, to whom King Alfonso gave the title of Countess in 1908 in recognition of her literary distinction. This award shows that though the position of Spanish women is generally supposed to be somewhat behind the times, it is in certain ways better than our own; seeing that in this country women, however notable their services to the community, are practically excluded from the annual birthday honours list.

U.S.A.

While the world is ringing with the horrors of the strike war in Colorado, it is well to read in *Harper's Weekly* the following testimony of the worth of one woman:—

"The only woman Senator in the United States, already fully tested and a proved honour to her State, still further established her statesmanship during the Colorado civil war. Several times she sought her information at the seat of battle. She talked with the militia and their wives as well as with the strikers and leaders. Where so many were blinded by hate, she was tolerant. Even when her heart suffered, she was calm. When she sympathised most, she had the needed scepticism of the investigator, and she knew that many of the women who poured out their sufferings to her were impetuous, gifted, and inevitable liars. She sought also not the easiest temporary escape but permanent solutions. She is an example of the undoubted truth that politics is one of the occupations in which a number of women are needed, and one of the occupations in which the first-class female intellect shows at its best."

IRELAND.

Mr. Asquith and Mr. Redmond declined to receive the deputation of Irish women which came over last week to lay their views on the Home Rule Bill before them. The *Irish Citizen* of June 13th comments as follows:—

"Mr. Asquith's reason for refusing to receive the deputation is typical. He says that the question of Votes for Women under Home Rule was dealt with by the rejection of the Snowden Amendment to the Home Rule Bill in 1912. He knows perfectly well that the adverse vote on that occasion was excused and palliated by assurances from himself and Mr. Birrell, as well as Mr. Redmond, that the subject would be open for a free vote of the Liberal and Nationalist members on the Manhood Suffrage Bill—a promise never kept, because the Reform Bill was withdrawn. It is therefore false and dishonest to say that the question was settled, in any honourable sense of the word. The question of the enfranchisement of Irish women under the Home Rule Bill has never been settled. Further, there are other factors which have arisen to make the situation widely different from what it was at the time of the Snowden Amendment. The position of the Government itself on the subject of Votes for Women under subordinate Parliaments is no longer the same. The Scottish Home Rule Bill, introduced recently, provides expressly for the enfranchisement of women, and this Bill received the benediction of Mr. McKinnon Wood, who occupies in the Government practically the position in regard to Scotland which Mr. Birrell occupies in regard to Ireland. This is an important and significant admission of the principle, which makes further denial of the franchise to Irish women a shameless outrage."

TWENTY WOMEN POOR LAW GUARDIANS FOR DUBLIN.

We learn from Mrs. Haslam, President of the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association, that the elections on May 6th, have brought the number of women Poor Law Guardians and District Councillors in Dublin up to twenty, six in the North division and fourteen in the South. The Chairman of the North division is Miss Weldrick, who headed the poll this year for her ward. Miss Buchanan, Deputy Vice-Chairman of the South, was returned unopposed, as was also Mrs. T. W. Russell.

Mrs. Haslam also calls our attention to the election of Mrs. Wyse Power on to the Board of the Richmond Lunatic Asylum, Dublin.

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Correspondence.

"THE TIMES" AND THE ARNOLD CASE.

MADAM,—In your issue of June 5th, Mr. Hooper writes: "*The Times* would no doubt insert a well-worded letter or article." It is intimated my letter may have been libellous. But the excuse is too charitable to that newspaper. *Truth* saw my letter, and thought differently; and, in addition, though I hope Mr. Hooper's touching faith in *The Times* may yet be justified, I may tell what must be my excuse for not writing to it again about this case. In December, 1912, it refused to print a letter from me about the case, while *The Spectator, Nation, Manchester Guardian, Globe, Daily News,* and over a dozen more papers printed my letters. Not one letter did *The Times* print on the Arnold Case till Sir H. T. White's appeared. *Truth* has abundantly shown (on May 20th, p. 1239) what a misleading and one-sided letter Sir H. T. White wrote, but when your readers asked me to answer it, and I did so, the answer was not printed. *The Times* may take the right side yet, but that will be in its own leaders or in letters from others, not from me.

In your issue of June 5th, a letter from Mrs. Venning also appeared, which was probably written without a perusal of my article in the June *English Review*.

There is not room to touch on all the points she takes, but on one point common humanity requires quick correction. Poor Fatima, the mother of Aina, appears to have been a decent woman and a devoted mother. She was hampered and delayed in delivering her child by a confinement and the illness and death of her husband; but an English barrister who saw her told me he thought she would sooner have *died* than prostitute little Aina. If she had been willing to take money, I suppose this case would never have been heard of. It is untrue that she "*sold*" her in any bad sense. She placed out the child in service, as is commonly done in rustic communities. Aina was a bright-eyed, well-doing little "slavey," but in no sense a slave.

I have spent my life in judicial work in Burma, and was for years the "Judge of Moulmein." When I left Burma in 1911 I had had more judicial experience outside Rangoon than any officer then in the province, and I declare that Mr. Arnold not only has been unduly punished, but is still being scandalously victimised by the civil suit for £1,000 damages now being pressed against him at Government expense; and as the Secretary of State in a way represents us all, we are all to blame if we stand by idly and let him worry into ruin or death an honourable English gentleman, whose only fault was that he disbelieved the dogma of official infallibility, and had a faith in our Courts now unusual.

DAVID ALEC WILSON.

MILITANCY AND "THE COMMON CAUSE."

MADAM,—I entirely agree with the letter of the Misses Hill in last week's COMMON CAUSE. I believe a great deal of harm is being done to the law-abiding party by the fact that our official organ does not condemn—indeed, almost condones—the deplorable tactics of the Militants.

There is still, among the upper middle-classes, a constant tendency to place *all* Suffragists, whether militant or otherwise, in the same category, and I believe daily harm is being done to our Cause because we do not make our position sufficiently clear.

A MEMBER OF AN OLD QUAKER FAMILY.

[*We have received a large number of letters, some saying that Militant Suffragists should be more severely condemned, and some that they should be less severely condemned. The space available for correspondence on this matter is very limited, but we have pleasure in printing the above brief note from one who holds that* THE COMMON CAUSE *should condemn more severely.*—ED., C.C.]

MISS JOAN GUTHRIE AND "SUFFRAGE TOILS."

MADAM,—It is only fair to the leaders of the W.S.P.U. to state that the unfortunate mental collapse and suicide of Miss Joan Guthrie had nothing to do with them or their teaching. As a matter of fact, whilst she was a member of their Union she led, according to her own statement to me, a perfectly moral and upright life. About eighteen months ago she sought my advice in reference to a certain man who had obtained an improper influence over her. Whilst in prison she had been forcibly fed, and this had apparently a very bad effect upon a delicate system, and, coupled with the man's desertion, had caused her to take drugs. I have a similar case in hand now. In my opinion, veronal ought not to be allowed to be sold without a doctor's certificate. I trust in your sense of justice to publish this letter.

ANTONIA MOSER.

AGE OF CONSENT.

MADAM,—May I crave the hospitality of your columns to remind your readers that our Bill, dealing with the above question and introduced in the House of Lord by the Lord Bishop of London, passed its second reading in April last.

It is expected that the Committee stage will shortly be reached, and it is therefore most earnestly hoped that all religious bodies, societies dealing with this question, and all interested in moral betterment, will arrange for the passing of resolutions or the signing of petitions in favour of the Bill for despatch to members of the House of Lords. I shall be pleased to supply copies of the suggested resolution or forms of petition on application.

May I add that a meeting in favour of this measure is to be held in Caxton Hall on June 26th at 8 p.m.? All sympathisers will be heartily welcomed.

H. M. TYRER,
Secretary, The London Council for the Promotion of Public Morality.
37, Norfolk St., Strand.

SUFFRAGIST RECTOR FOR ST. JAMES'S, PICCADILLY.

The Rev. W. Temple, headmaster of Repton School since 1910, has been offered by the Lord Chancellor the rectorship of St. James's, Piccadilly, W, which he has accepted. Mr. Temple is a well-known supporter of the Suffrage cause.

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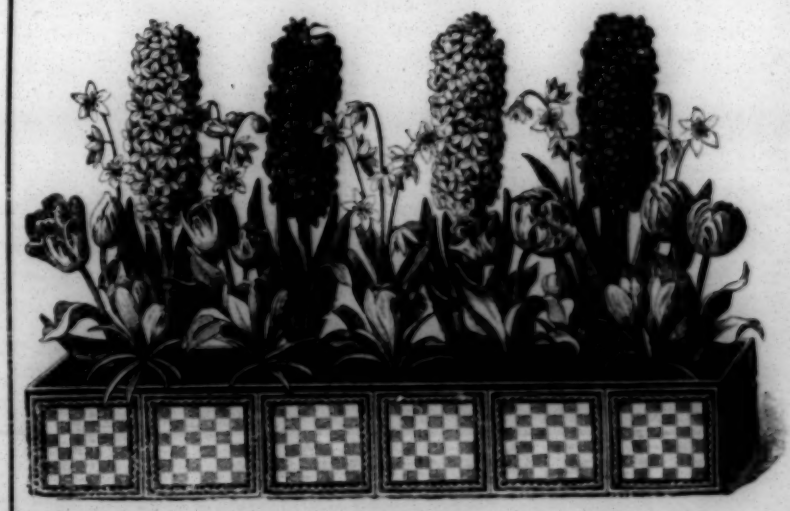

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WIND AND TIDE.

By E. RENTOUL ESLER.

Author of "The Wardlaws," "The Trackless Way," "The Way they Loved at Grimpat," "A Maid of the Manse," &c.

SYNOPSIS.

Kate Burnsley is the daughter of a rough Irish farmer, but her mother had been brought up in a refined and cultured home, and had only married Burnsley because her father, the Rev. John Moffatt, was reduced to poverty. On her mother's death, Kate takes her place as mistress of the farm, and performs her duties well, but she is in thoroughly uncongenial surroundings. Everything in the house that stirs her imagination, that seems beautiful, has come to Kate from her mother's people. Kate worships her brother Neil, who is training as a solicitor, and resents the admiration of Dick Nelson, a handsome but rough young man, who is obliged to work on her father's farm, because his people had wasted away all their possessions while he was still a child. Biddy Doyle, who comes in to "lend a hand" in the kitchen, has a great admiration for Dick, and, deeply as she is devoted to Kate, rather resents her attitude towards the young man.

Neil comes home for a short holiday, and brother and sister plan out a delightful future together. Her brother's companionship makes Richard Nelson's wooing all the more repugnant to Kate. One day, however, on her way home from market, she is rescued by Nelson from a mad dog, and in the first grateful consciousness of deliverance allows him to kiss her, but as soon as she recovers herself she repulses him. He leaves her in anger but comes next day, to tell her that he has had an offer of a post with a good salary, and asks her to promise to marry him. Again Kate repulses him, and when later on he writes to say that he has come into some property, and that he is still fond of her, she answers his letter rudely. A second letter arrives from Nelson, telling Kate that he has a mortgage on her father's farm, and asking if this makes any difference to her views. She replies that it does not.

Kate's father, however, has different views. Unable to pay off the mortgage, it does not occur to him that his daughter will "have other views than to save her father and brother," especially as Neil has come home seriously ill. In an interview with Nelson he promises that Kate shall marry him, and rides off in high good humour, leaving the young man ill at ease. "He wanted her so much that he would take her against her will, but only in the hope that one day she would be satisfied."

CHAPTER VII.

AS Burnsley rode homeward he philosophised a little on odd happenings. To think of Dick Nelson being able—and willing—to give eleven hundred pounds for a girl. Dick Nelson, who, but three little years before, had been glad to work for him for a labourer's wage! And to see the nice place he had, and the fine horses, and all the stablemen calling him Sir. It would certainly be a grand match for Kate, though if he, her sire, had known that Nelson had lifted his eyes to her in the long ago he would have kicked him off the door-step, or, at least, would have wished to do it. Well, well; this was an uncertain world, and daughters were worth rearing, when they showed themselves of such value at critical moments.

He descended rather stiffly from the farm-horse's broad back, led the creature into the stable, and rubbed him down, giving him an extra handful of corn, by reason of his own good humour; then he went indoors, with some creaking of his heavy boots.

Kate came forward to meet him, her face anxious, her lips pinched and pale.

"What news?" she cried, eagerly.

"Excellent news. O you sly one; never to let me know that this was Nelson's way of asking me for you."

"Do you mean to say you have been with him?" she asked.

"Where else?"

"I thought you were trying to raise the money."

"No need of that now, my girl. Do you know that he will give you the mortgage, you, when you marry him, and that the interest will be your pocket-money?"

"I am not going to marry him," she answered, haughtily.

"Oh, aren't you? Some of us will have a word or two to say to that. Why, he is such a match as you had no right to hope for, and he can give you what you always wanted—town life and easy times."

"Father, I will never marry Dick Nelson."

"Indeed you will, and soon too."

"Never, with God's help."

"Then without such help. Now, bring me my tea, and come into the parlour, we can talk it over there. Where is Neil?"

"Resting in his room. He does not grow stronger."

"Now's the time to help him. I have no money for this sanatorium business, but Nelson will advance it."

She said nothing, but busied herself to prepare the meal that had been asked for. When she had set it before the hungry man, she sat down opposite him, watching idly his consumption of huge chunks of bread and corned beef. She poured out a cup of tea for herself, but she felt as if a morsel of solid food would choke her, her throat was dry as a furnace, and her head throbbed.

"The mortgage will be yours when you have married Nelson, do you understand that?" the father began. "He promises to give it to you, and you can put it in the fire if you choose, or you can keep it and use the interest for Neil. I will pay you regularly; you can always reckon on the money; just think of it, fifty-five pounds, paid half-yearly! Then, having the mortgage, you could raise a lump sum on it when you needed it—a hundred pounds at any time, to give Neil a start. You are in luck, my girl, to have such prospects, and a man ready to put the hair of his head under your feet."

"Father, do you want to kill me; do you want me to die, as my mother died?" she asked, huskily.

"Come now, none of that," the man answered, harshly. "You ought to be jolly glad of such a settlement, to say nothing of your opportunities of helping your brother and me. Can you not see that we are tied neck and heel, that I can be turned out of here, if it is the creditor's good pleasure, without a penny for any of us? Where would Neil get anything for a start then?"

"The only person or thing that I care for in this wide world is Neil," she answered, in a husky, halting voice. "If I am to think of this at all—and God knows the horror of it—it will be because of Neil. But is there no other way to help him? I would work myself to skin and bone if it would be of any use."

"What could you do? Earn sixpence a day for sewing shirts," he answered, with good-humoured contempt. "But, sure, I know it is the way of girls to make all this tarnation bother about getting married, and then be as proud as peacocks once the ring is on their finger. Why, look at what you'll have—your driving-trap and your servants and your nice, well-furnished house."

"And to live with a brute."

"What is that you say?" he asked, frowning. "It is mighty easy to call ill-names, but it is a bad habit. Dick Nelson is a sensible, steady, well-conducted fellow, as well-born as you, even if he was out of luck in the past. I don't say that he is not a bit rough, but she is not much use that can't polish a man up if she wants to do it, when she is his wife. As to girls' fancies, I wouldn't give a farden for a bushel of them—rubbish gathered out of penny stories. Girls are made to be married, and to keep the house and rear children and make the men comfortable, and the girl that gets a good offer when she is young has a lot to be thankful for. I told Nelson to come over when he wanted to, that you would be glad to see him."

She sat quite still after her father had left the room, and ever and anon a shudder ran through her young frame. The whole world had suddenly become like a charnel-house, with nothing in it but death and loss and renunciation. Oh, if it were not for Neil?

She wrung her interlocked fingers together, and beat them against her breast with a gesture that was inexpressibly pitiful. To think of Dick Nelson as her husband, and to recall that day when he had crushed her in his coarse grasp, suffocating her with his kisses, hurting her, and shaming her womanhood! The outrage of it burned her yet; and she was to submit to him, to that, without protest, always, always.

She covered her eyes with her hands, and rocked herself to and fro. If only there had been no Neil, or if he had been strong enough to fight his battles, and hers. "God, my God," she whispered.

After a time she crept up to her brother's room. It was dark now, and he could not see her face.

"Are you better?" she asked, in her tired voice.

"Yes, and hungry, quite ready for supper. Is father back?"

"Yes. There is something I want to talk to you about. You know it is Dick Nelson who holds the mortgage?"

"Yes, I know."

"And he wants to marry me. He says if I will marry him he will not ask for the money; he will give the mortgage to me."

"That is very generous. Well, what will you do?"

"Neil, I would rather die." He heard the shudder in the words.

"Then that settles the matter. You must not think of it."

"But I do think of it for this reason. He would help you, he would send you away where you would be made strong. For that I could try to love him."

"I feel better now and then," Neil answered, cheerfully. "It is just the weakness and the heat in my blood that pull me down. But don't talk of me; talk of this other thing, it is more interesting. I knew Nelson a little long ago; he seemed not bad looking, or bad tempered, even if not particularly brilliant; and if he loves you, Kate, there must be something in him."

"Am I so hard to love?" she asked, with a wan, little smile.

"You know what I mean. Now, why do you not like him?"

"He is not the sort I fancy; he is not like us, like you."

"Better luck for him that he is not a weed like me. But let us talk this thing over! Be frank with me, Kate, and trust me to help you if you need help. What is there against Nelson?"

"Nothing."

"You mean that?"

"Yes, there is nothing that any sensible person would say was a real objection, but I just can't bear him."

"There is no one else—no one that you prefer?"

"No."

Neil was silent for a moment. Irish people hold their women in high reverence as women who belong to them, but they are a composite race, and while they feel that sentiment is a noble thing to talk about, and even to die for when emotion is at boiling-point, it does not seem such a forceful thing to live by, when solid items, like acres and mortgages and an assured income are flung into the other scale. Neil Burnsley loved his sister, with the permanent, protective love that results from a lifetime, albeit short, spent together, in the groove where one gives all and the other accepts all, not with any thought of conscious selfishness, but as of right, the tribute of the weaker and less wise sex to the strong and protective one. In the imagination of the young Burnsleys, as in that of many another Irish household a generation ago, the family would remain bound together, would work and succeed together, but the male was to be the accredited doer, as of right divine; the female to be the supporter, ready to follow the fraternal lead, to strengthen the fraternal claims, and to put these claims, if need be, before all other claims, whether

within the family or outside it, and whether accruing from God or man. An Irish girl might elect to stand by her father if contention arose in the family, but in no case could she be expected to stand by her sisters or herself in similar case, unless prepared to be labelled "a bad girl," and to accept all the penalties which attach to badness in a virtuous community. Sincerely as Neil Burnsley loved his sister; ready, even eager as he would have been, to share his last sixpence or his last meal with her, as the merest matter of course, it did not occur to him, any more than it would have done to his father, to recognise her disinclination towards the bridegroom as a serious obstacle when it was a question of very tangible things. Both believed, truly enough, that girls often married without love, even with aversion, but things settled down in time, the woman asquiesced; there was no reason why every woman should not acquiesce. The farm and the financial difficulties and the mortgage were items to reckon with, items which forced themselves into the account; a woman's feelings were like cramp in the accountant's hand, inconvenient when introduced inopportunely, and likely to retard the business of posting the books, but not properly belonging to the columns at all. If Kate was to marry Nelson, Neil would have been glad to know that she was happy in the prospect, but, whether or not, the man's offer was, under the circumstances, entitled to the most serious consideration. When Neil spoke at last it was with the kindly, judicial air of a judge who, in summing up, wishes to direct the attention of the jury to a little informality in the evidence which may have impressed them unduly, but ought not to be considered in their verdict. Neil's tone was gentle and affectionate, and there was not a thought, save of gentleness and affection in his mind.

"Then we shall have to consider, girlie, that if he gives you the mortgage it will keep dad in the place—and we have had it three hundred years."

Kate made no reply.

"That is worth thinking about, is it not?"

"I have thought about it."

"And you still feel you could not?"

"Would you feel that you could marry Betty McGinty in the same case?"

The Betty in question was an elderly woman who, when she was sober, was a hawker of small wares, and, when she was drunk, was that and nothing more.

"Neil laughed. "There is no parallel, alannah; Nelson is all right."

"To me he seems worse than Betty," she answered, through her shut teeth.

"Well, then, if I had to choose Betty in such a case or let Laganside go, I would put the ring on her finger."

"I wonder would you?"

"I would."

She said nothing, and, after a moment, he went on:—

"He has come by the mortgage quite fairly, and, when people know what a good offer he has made, no one will say it is unfair that he takes the land or the girl."

"I am not thinking of the land, or of talk. What do I care?"

"But it is business, Kate; eleven hundred pounds is a big sum for people like Nelson or us, and if that has all dribbled away in twenty years or so, how are we to recoup it or pay it back? If I were better and getting on everything would be easy, but, to tell the truth, there are times when I don't think I shall get better. And the mortgage is so heavy, I am not sure that anyone would take it up, even at what it stands at, but if someone did there would be the law expenses of the transfer for us, and everyone knowing that we are in debt, a thing no one suspected before. It all looks bad."

"Very bad," she assented.

"And I so good-for-nothing."

"But you will get better." The something tugging at her heart-strings sent the colour back into her face. "If I married—him and could help you then, would you take such chances as travel and good nursing could give you, and do your best to get well?"

"Of course I should."

She dropped suddenly beside him, and hid her face in the pillow on which his head rested, and she was weeping bitterly.

"Don't cry, girlie, don't cry. You shan't be made to do anything you don't want to do. Now tell me what is the matter."

"Life is all so sad, everybody's life."

She could not tell him all she felt; love sealed her lips. If she was to do this horrible thing that the men of her house seemed to ask of her she would try to do it generously, concealing from Neil, at any rate, how loathly was the potion she had to drink. If she married Nelson it would be for Neil's sake solely; but for him and his need of help she would starve and die in a gutter preferably. But if treatment and care would prolong his days——

It did not occur to her what large demands she was about to make of the man who asked only her love in exchange—a love she did not intend to give—financial freedom for her father, travel and nursing for Neil, and perhaps a start in his profession—why not? If one sold oneself it was fair enough to make a good bargain. It did not strike her that there were items which the other might expect to have thrown in with a certain liberality also, as gratitude, and those elements of kindness which, in time, become the seeds of goodwill. She was young and unhappy, and it did not occur to her that she was attaching quite a fancy price to her cold, unwilling hand.

A week passed and nothing happened. Nelson did not accept Farmer Burnsley's invitation to visit them, and no written invitation followed the verbal one. In the brief respite, Kate's young courage began to revive. Perhaps Nelson would not insist; perhaps he would be merciful, and would afford them time till something happened—some windfall should drop from the clouds. Why, if he could only be brought to think so, to act generously would be the way to make him valuable in her eyes.

She went about her domestic work almost blithely. She waited on Neil with tender service that had a caress in it, and all the time she was praying for deliverance, as Andromeda may have prayed on the rock.

But on the seventh day Richard Nelson rode up—a well-brushed, well-fed man, his horse's trappings sparkling in the sun, and the creature's coat shining like silk.

Kate saw him come into the yard, and she ran and hid till he and her father entered the house together. Then she tip-toed her way to the door that had closed behind them, and pressed her ear to the woodwork.

"I have come for your answer," she heard Nelson say. "Is it to be the girl or the money?" and her father's hearty reply: "Why, the girl, of course. They are all coy at the first, but that passes."

At that she sat down on the stairs outside the door, and clasped her hands about her knees. The worst that could happen was about to happen. "Neil, Neil, Neil," she whispered under her breath. "If only it were not for Neil!"

She crawled up to the turn of the stairs, and sat there, out of sight but within earshot if required. By and by her father came out and called her, and she went down just as she was, without thought of an adorning touch on her plain, print gown.

Nelson rose and offered her his hand, and she laid her's limply within it. Then she retreated towards the wall of the room, and stood there, her hands behind her, leaning against it as if she would put the furthest limits of the apartment between her and her unwelcome suitor.

(To be continued.)

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ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS *to be addressed to The Manager,* THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, *Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and all* ADVERTISEMENTS *must reach the Office not later than first post on Tuesday. Advertisement Representative, S. R. Le Mare.*

NOTICE.—*This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by midday on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, please communicate with The Manager,* THE COMMON CAUSE.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

Why does the N.U.W.S.S. Keep the Law?

The Anti-suffragists, barren of argument, barren of inspiration, are just now engaged more actively even than usual, in a campaign of calumny. We published two weeks ago a letter from Miss Courtney, Hon. Secretary of the N.U.W.S.S., which had been addressed to the editor of the *Anti-Suffrage Review*. In this letter Miss Courtney repudiates the statement which appeared in the Anti-suffrage organ, that she had declared the N.U.W.S.S. to be law-abiding "because it paid." Letters from a certain prominent member of the N.L.O.W.S. appear frequently in *The Times* and elsewhere, to say that she has found among the 52,000 members of societies within the N.U., one or another sympathiser with militancy. This week a story is going the rounds that Mrs. Fawcett has visited a seaside town, and there accepted a bouquet from the headquarters of the W.S.P.U. We publish in this issue Mrs. Fawcett's reply in *The Times* to a whole series of insinuations of her complicity with militancy. Referring to an action of hers in 1906, she uses the words: "Yes, I am the same Mrs. Fawcett." That is the key of the situation. There are two classes of persons engaged in the campaign of calumny. First, those who, knowing what they say is essentially false, hint and whisper in order to injure the cause whose strength they hate; and, second, those who, loving violence themselves, cannot believe that all are not secretly like-minded. The two classes are closely allied. Let us consider the position of the first. We are not concerned to deny that, most unhappily, there are a few persons in the N.U.W.S.S. stupid enough or dishonourable enough not to understand that you cannot belong to an organisation which not only refrains from militancy but which explicitly condemns it on principle, while you yourself coquette with it. Everywhere there may be fools or knaves. But to argue, or to hint, that the existence of these few persons, whom our rules do not enable us to hang or to imprison, proves that a secret understanding in regard to methods has been established between the N.U.W.S.S. and the W.S.P.U., is to be responsible for such contemptible meanness as is its own worst punishment. As well might Suffragists say that the N.L.O.W.S is founded on deceit because people are found who say: "Oh, no, I could never be a Suffragist, but of course I think women who pay rates and taxes should have votes," or because an Anti-suffragist organiser or two passes over into the Suffragist camp. Let us turn to the other class—those who love violence, and cannot believe that most Suffragists hate it. Of such we are tempted to say are all men, many women, all Anti-suffragists, the whole House of Commons, two-thirds of the Lords, the press of the country, the magistracy, the clergy, and the Government. But we refrain,—to make such an assertion would be to exaggerate; there are many exceptions. But, indeed, whither is public opinion in this country being guided? We have some thousand women convicted during the past few years of law-breaking in the name of Women's Suffrage. Possibly nearly half of this number have been guilty of the crime of arson or of other forms of violence, though none of the taking of life or of serious injury to persons. Such have been rightly punished with varying degrees of severity. On the other hand, we have had over and over again up and down the country, mob violence directed against women

engaged in their lawful pursuits, women physically attacked, some of them injured for life, insulted, bespattered with mud and filth, bruised, and often with open wounds inflicted upon them, their clothing and their property destroyed, their houses attacked, their windows smashed. In the City last week, sellers of The Common Cause were baited and ragged by City men in silk hats; in South-West London four or six days ago, a woman was followed home by a howling mob, and her windows smashed because under her arm she carried a law-abiding Suffragist poster; ten days ago the N.U. flag in Hyde Park was torn to pieces in broad daylight, and the speakers insulted. The instances are far, far too numerous even to refer to. The thing is almost a common-place of the day's work to law-abiding Suffragists at times when the lowest dregs of the population are being incited against them in press and police court.

Through it all, the N.U.W.S.S., like its leader, remains the same. It has condemned violence at all times. It condemned it when it was highly unpopular to do so; it condemns it still. It refrained from indulging in it when it would have paid to do so; it refrains still. It refused to call militant Suffragists heroes for doing violent acts when it would have been convenient so to describe them, and it refuses now to say that they are the blackest, most abandoned criminals known to history. It does this not because the adoption of anarchical methods is not a serious crime of gravest menace to the welfare of the nation, but because while 500 women have done this thing, thousands, nay millions of men throughout the ages have done crimes against womanhood, nay, even black cruelties against little children, for which they have gone unpunished. That does not excuse the crime of women, but it convicts of ghastly hypocrisy those who would revenge themselves upon these women, and upon all women because of them, by an appeal to lynch law.

Why *does* the N.U.W.S.S. keep the law? It does not always love the law. It sees in it often and often the instrument of dark oppression; but through it all and beyond it all there is a vision. Gœthe has said "the law shall give you liberty"—not violence, not the power of money, not brute force, not smug respectability (which law-abiding Suffragists do not worship as their god) but law, or rather that thing of which law is the symbol; the supremacy of justice, of reason, of the protection of a well-balanced public opinion. The N.U.W.S.S. sees law prostituted, it sees law degraded by those who make or administer it, it sees wickedness in high places; *but it has chosen*—whatever may be for other times and other countries, the duty of Suffragists here and now is to guard a something which is worthy of preservation, and which, by a campaign allied in principle to nihilism and by the stupidity of those who arrogate to themselves the monopoly of government, is imperilled. Poor thing as it often is, poor contemptible things as those who prate loudest in its defence often are, there is a something sacred in the idea of law, and while the whole nation indulges in violence, the N.U.W.S.S., with the same Mrs. Fawcett at its head, stands for that thing. To it, therefore, the law is, and will remain, sacred.

"How Some of Us Live."

We regret that owing to the amount of news received this week we are obliged to hold over a very interesting article called "A Town of Women," which is the second of a series of articles by Our Commissioner on "How Some of Us Live."

The International Textile Workers' Congress at Blackpool.

BY MISS I. O. FORD, A WOMAN DELEGATE

The Eighth International Textile Congress was held last week in Blackpool. Nine of the European countries sent delegates, and England sent delegates from Yorkshire, Cheshire, and Lancashire.

In the Lancashire (and Cheshire) textile trade more women are employed than men, and more women are in the Union, yet there was not one Lancashire woman delegate there—only men, to the number of thirty-six. In Yorkshire many more men than women are organised, but of the eight delegates, one was a woman, myself—(for these International Congresses it is not a condition that delegates should be manual workers; I am a member of the Textile Union)—while two of the men were those stalwarts for Women's Suffrage, Mr. Ben Turner, Mayor of Batley, and Mr. Allen Gee.

The first thing that struck me was how strange this absence of women from the ranks of the best-paid textile workers must seem to some of the foreign nations, and particularly in a country where we fondly boast that women are treated more as men's equals than they are, for instance, in Germany. I was delighted to find that it *did* seem odd to some of them, and we shrugged our shoulders and exclaimed over it a good deal. The wives of the English delegates (no foreign wives had been able to afford the trip) were not allowed—nor was I, a full delegate—to go to Preston, where, besides seeing Horrocks's mill, luncheon, prizes for bowls, tea, and other nice things were provided. Foreign wives at the other Textile Congresses I have attended in other countries are taken round in crowds, and the women delegates are fêted as royally as the men.

When we came to the discussion on the retention or abolition of the half-time system, and of the stoppage of work for the whole of Saturday, it seemed to me really funny how devoid of all sense of humour, and how depressingly like the House of Commons we were! The Saturday work question was discussed and approved of, chiefly, by some entirely, because of the desire of women (so the men said, in quite touching speeches) to have all Saturday in which to do their house work. It was just like the celebrated baby and flannelette debate in the House over again! The half-time system (almost non-existent in Yorkshire textiles) concerns women, on the whole, more than men. The widow who has to support her family ought to have a say in this question, whether her say be right or wrong, for it concerns her vitally; but no Lancashire woman was there!

Why are not women on the Executives of their great Trade Union, as in Yorkshire? They have more votes than men, I imagine, having a larger membership, and I believe their Lancashire men colleagues would eventually welcome them and value their help. I think that the importance of these International Conferences is not sufficiently realised by the women, nor how necessary it is for the strengthening of our Suffrage cause that women workers should be there as delegates. When I made my own speech in French and German, one of these Lancashire delegates came to me and said, "Now I must always cry 'Votes for Women,'" and they were *all* most generous in their congratulations.

Every question discussed, every reform included in the programme of future work, suffers from being worked in a one-sided fashion. I could not help seeing that, largely owing, I consider, to this too narrow outlook, England has somewhat lost ground amongst these nations since I was last with the delegates, three Congresses ago. The hours of work are being shortened, the wages of the workers are rising, the whole outlook has improved faster in proportion in some of these countries, and the women are awakening faster, than is the case here. Nine years ago England was further ahead in these things than she is now. Where will she be, I wondered, in another nine years? I think it largely depends on our women.

At Verviers, some years ago, we found in a mill we visited, low wages and poor conditions. Now we find women there are earning from 18 to 24 francs, and have a 56-hour week. These are higher wages than in many towns in the West Riding. This is only one instance. It is true women over twenty-one still work at night there, but other conditions are much improved.

Of course, we all know there is no half-time system in Germany; and when, contrary to their own convictions, as many of them confessed, but in deference to the wishes of their Union, the Lancashire delegates voted for the continuation of it, some of the other delegates made really fine speeches on the need for a nation to husband the strength of its children, if it would be great in both mind and body. The small stature of the girls and women in the mill they visited, their pallor, and the number who wore spectacles, deeply and painfully impressed those foreign workers. "This comes of your child labour," they exclaimed. "You are destroying the physique of your nation."

These Congresses, whose aim is to equalise hours, wages, and conditions in all countries (fourteen are affiliated), so that industrial competition—and its companion, war—between nations may be eventually abolished, are deeply interesting. One sees they are, just like the Suffrage Movement, a part of the great universal struggle for a nobler standard of character and personality. But unless women insist, in spite of all the present opposition of men, on taking their place in it, it may very likely dwindle and shrink into mere class war.

Annual Conference of the Association of Head Mistresses.

The fortieth Annual Conference of the Incorporated Association of Head Mistresses was held at the Redland High School, Bristol, on June 12th and 13th.

Perhaps the chief matter in the eyes of the non-educational outside world with which the Conference dealt was resolutions on the Report of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service. It will be remembered that the *Times* lately published a letter, signed by officials of the Association, gladly welcoming some of the Commis-

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BY

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sioners' recommendations, but deprecating general statements regarding the work of women, which appeared to be unsupported by the mass of evidence based on direct experience. A reprint of this letter was included in the annual report, which was adopted on the proposal of the President. The resolutions were in the following terms:—

(1) That this Conference regrets the decision of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service to recommend:—

(*a*) The exclusion of women from the competition for higher posts (Class I. examination).

(*b*) The maintenance of the hard and fast rules as to—

i. Compulsory retirement in all cases on marriage.

ii. The segregation of women employed in Government Departments.

iii. Rigid differentiation between the classes of Women Typists and Women Clerks.

(2) The Conference also dissents from the statement that women are inferior to men in—

(*a*) Power of sustained work.

(*b*) Adaptability to varying conditions of service.

(*c*) Continuity of service, save in so far as compulsory retirement on marriage (affecting only 3 per cent. of Civil Service women annually) renders continuity of service impossible.

The first was carried, an amendment being defeated. The Conference then agreed to delete the second resolution. This deletion, however, led to such misunderstanding in the Press, that on Saturday the following emergency resolutions were put on record:—

(1) That this Association desires to emphasise the fact that there are not sufficient data at present for any comparison between the work of men and women, inasmuch as many able women have hitherto not had an opportunity of promotion to posts of responsibility, and with regard to the Civil Service in particular the monotonous and mechanical type of work, without prospect of change, hitherto allotted to women only, impairs general usefulness and gives no opportunity for showing adaptability to varying types of service.

(2) It desires to endorse the view expressed by the Commissioners in the reservations to Chapter X., paragraph 19, which run as follows:—

> "We believe that efficiency in clerical, as in other forms of labour, depends in part upon the food, housing, recreation, &c., made possible by the salary paid. For this reason, we think that no fair inference can be drawn as to the efficiency of the two sexes from a comparison between the work of the existing woman clerks and that of male clerks enjoying much larger salaries. And we do not think that the evidence before us (in so far as it is based upon actual experience and not *a priori* consideration) justifies the statement, even with regard to existing facts, that 'in adaptability to varying service conditions the advantage lies with men.'"

ALL-BRITAIN LIGHTNING CAMPAIGN.

The Lightning Campaign is still in progress, and every member of a Society within the N.U.W.S.S. is urged to get at least one other member before the end of the month. It is hoped that any one with an encouraging item of news in regard to this campaign will forward it to the Editor. The following reaches us from the London Society:—

"Two members of the Ealing Branch enrolled eight new members among the 'Friends' in three streets near their home in less than four hours. Another lady left her home with a fixed determination not to return home without at least one duly filled-up membership form. She came back in half-an-hour with two. At drawing-room meetings after Lightning Campaign speeches one hears members on all sides attempting to bring their neighbours into the fold, with very successful results; in one case, ten out of twenty-five people joined us."

ACTIVE SERVICE LEAGUE.

Will those Societies which have formed their groups of Active Service Leaguers, and have chosen their Group Leader, kindly send me the name of the latter and the number of the former? Also, I shall be glad to hear of any definite bit of open-air work that has either been started or is in process of organisation.

I am forming a group, at headquarters, of teachers, students, and other professional women who can only work in their holidays and do not wish to attach themselves to any particular Society. I should like to receive the names of others who can also give part of their summer holiday to one or other of our open-air campaigns.

K. M. HARLEY, League Leader, A.S.L.

"COMMON CAUSE" SELLERS.

There will be a sellers' meeting at 58, Victoria Street, on Wednesday, June 24th, at 6 o'clock. All sellers will be welcome.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS AT THE WESTMINSTER PALACE HOTEL.

At the London Society's reception last week, Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Rackham, and Mrs. Swanwick spoke, and short speeches were also delivered by distinguished guests, Mr. and Mrs. Haslam and Miss Mellone from Ireland, and Mrs. Bulner from Canada. Mrs. Fawcett referred in srong terms to the dangers that may threaten little children in an Indian Empire, revealed by the Channing Arnold case. It was announced from the Chair that the Society's Executive Committee had been officially informed that a loyal birthday greeting they had addressed to the King, had been laid before him in person and received "very graciously."

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Notes from Headquarters.

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Treasurer's Notes.

The past fortnight has brought us many welcome contributions. We are particularly grateful to the Newnham College Society for Women's Suffrage for their generous donation in response to our appeal for funds to enable us to extend our scheme for motor-'bus advertisements. The advertisements are attracting a great deal of favourable attention, and the help given to enable us to keep the fine work of the National Union before the public at the present time is of the utmost value. The devotion to the Cause of Women's Suffrage which the members of the Newnham College Society are constantly showing is specially gratifying and encouraging.

Another token of unselfish generosity has also come to us in the form of a ring from a lady who cannot give us a donation at the present time, but sends us the ring from among her personal possessions to be sold for the benefit of our funds.

Those—and there are thousands—who themselves give generously to our funds will feel grateful to all others who give in like manner, for the bond of mutual service is among the strongest of the many strong bonds that unite Suffragists.

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Miss Jessie E. Muntz	2 2 0
Mrs. Oliver Strachey	10 0
Miss V. Eustace	5 0
Miss M. Morgan	2 6
Miss W. S. Henderson	2 6

Donations.

	£ s. d.
Anonymous, Motor-'bus Advertisements	10 0
Miss M. R. Courtauld, Motor-'bus Advertisements	5 0 0
Miss M. D. Jordan, Motor-'bus Advertisements	5 0
Miss E. Woods, Motor-'bus Advertisements	1 0 0
Newnham College Society for Women's Suffrage, Motor-'bus Advertisements	10 19 2
Congleton W.S.S.	10 0
Ebbw Vale W.S.S.	5 4
Miss M. Milton	5 0
Ascot W.S.S.	2 2 0
Miss M. L. Huckwell	10 0 0
Miss Mary E. Phillips, Profit on Meeting at Llanwrtyd Wells	6 0

Women's Suffrage Mandate Fund.

	£ s. d.
Mrs. Graham	5 0
Mrs. Berry	1 0 0
Anonymous	5 0 0
Cambridge University Old Students	5 0 0
Mrs. A. Schuster	5 0 0
Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Pilcher	50 0 0
Mrs. McKillop	2 0

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Thetford W.S.S. (1st instalment)	2 6
Tain W.S.S.	5 0
Folkestone and Hythe W.S.S. (additional)	1 6
Redcar W.S.S. (additional) ...	4 3
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Brentwood W.S.S.	10 0
Paignton W.S.S.	14 3
Dumfries W.S.S.	5 0
Cromer W.S.S.	5 0
Ardrossan and Saltcoats W.S.S.	10 0
Chepstow W.S.S.	5 0
Maryport W.S.S.	12 6
Lampeter W.S.S.	15 0
S. E. Wansbeck W.S.S. ...	1 3 6
Goole W.S.S.	9 0
	7,320 0 7

Militancy and the N.U.W.S.S.

We give below a manifesto which has been issued by the N.U.W.S.S. and C.U.W.F.A., and which has been sent to M.P.'s with Miss Marshall's covering letter appended :—

"DEAR SIR,—May I call your attention to the enclosed manifesto, which appeared in *The Times* on Saturday, June 13th.

"The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies has always condemned the use of violence in political propaganda, and its consistently constitutional policy is in itself a repudiation of lawlessness. But the Press as a rule prefers to give prominence to the discreditable rather than the creditable features of the Suffrage Movement. One of the leading London papers thinks that a few inches of space on a back page is sufficient for a report of the great International Women's Suffrage Congress, representing the Woman's Movement all over the world, whilst it devotes a whole column on a front page to a sensational account of two women breaking a window.

"This attitude is reflected in the writings and speeches, not only of Anti-suffragists, but of many professed friends of the Suffrage Move-

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ment, to whom Militancy presents itself as a welcome excuse for procrastination. It is largely responsible for the continuance of Militancy, and tends to obscure the fact that the Militants are only a small section of the Suffrage Movement, and that their action is strongly condemned by the main body of Suffragists.

"I therefore venture to call your attention to the emphatic and unequivocal statement of the position of the two largest non-militant Suffrage Societies, as set forth in the enclosed manifesto.—Yours faithfully,

"CATHERINE E. MARSHALL, Hon. Parliamentary Secretary."

"We, the undersigned representatives of law-abiding Suffrage Societies covering the whole area of Great Britain, have often protested against the lawless violence of a small section, and recent events compel us once more to put on record our detestation of methods of arson, destruction, and vandalism. We oppose these methods, and always have opposed them, because they are a negation of the very principles for which we stand. Our task of convincing the electorate is rendered infinitely more difficult by such actions; these can only have the effect of encouraging Anti-suffragists, and of causing a corresponding weakening of public opinion in our support, on which we must ultimately rely for success.

"It is the opponents of Women's Suffrage who argue that the ultimate basis of Government is physical force. We, on the contrary, believe that physical force can produce no permanent settlement of any great political issue, and that the ultimate appeal is to the principles of right and reason.

"Our demands are just, and the granting of them would be an advance in civilisation and would promote the true welfare of the nation as a whole.

"MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, President, HELENA AUERBACH, Hon. Treasurer; KATHLEEN D. COURTNEY, Hon. Secretary; CATHERINE E. MARSHALL, Hon. Parliamentary Secretary; National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, representing 485 affiliated Societies in England, Scotland, and Wales (Offices, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.).

"MAUD SELBORNE, President; E. FINGALL, President for Ireland; WINIFRED ARRAN, Chairman of Executive Committee; A. M. WARE, Hon. Treasurer; LOUISE GILBERT SAMUEL, Hon. Secretary; Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, representing 75 Branches in Great Britain and Ireland (Offices, 48, Dover Street, W.)."

N.B.—The protest of the Women's Liberal Federation appeared in *The Times* on Thursday, June 11th.

The following letter from Mrs. Fawcett appeared in *The Times* of June 10th:—

"SIR,—In reply to your correspondent who hides behind the signature 'Not Unmindful,' I rejoin: Yes, I am the same Mrs. Fawcett who in 1906 welcomed Mrs. Cobden Sanderson and her friends when they were released from a half-finished sentence of three months' imprisonment as ordinary criminals in Holloway for making Suffragist speeches in the Lobby of the House of Commons. I was as much opposed to violence then as I am now; and I took care to say so. The difference is that the members of the Women's Social and Political Union in 1906 had used no violence. In 1906 they suffered violence; now they are inflicting it.

"The change, as your correspondent points out, dates from June 30th, 1908, when the first stone was thrown by the so-called Suffragettes.

"I supported the Suffragettes when I thought they were right, and I opposed them, and continue to oppose them, when I feel they are wrong.

"I am profoundly convinced that the problem under consideration will never be solved by violence, whether used on one side or on the other.—Yours obediently,

"MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT."

MISS COURTNEY AND THE ANTI-SUFFRAGISTS.

We are glad to learn that the Editor of *The Anti-Suffrage Review* has not finally declined to publish Miss Courtney's letter in reference to the mis-statement of her views which appeared in the *Review*. As this letter was sent to the *Review* shortly after the middle of May and failed to appear in the June issue, it was naturally understood to have been declined. Miss Courtney having been absent abroad for several weeks, we acted upon the known facts, not upon a statement from her. The Editor of the *Review* has as yet failed to give any satisfactory authority for the mis-statement in question, as will be seen from the following correspondence:—

"June 5th, 1914.

"DEAR MADAM,—I have to express my sincere regret that, owing to an oversight, the letter written by me in answer to your letter of May 22nd was not despatched. I wrote to say that the statement attributed to you was from a speech made by you in the course of a debate at Epsom on October 27th, 1911. From the current number of THE COMMON CAUSE I gather that you expected to see your letter in this month's *Anti-Suffrage Review*. In these circumstances, I much regret its omission; but when I received your letter on May 22nd dealing with a statement appearing in the April number of *The Anti-Suffrage Review*, and asking for a definite piece of information, it did not occur to me that you wrote for publication, but merely to elicit an answer as to the accuracy of the statement attributed to you. As soon as I had obtained the necessary information I replied, or rather, as the event proves, thought I had replied.

"THE EDITOR, *Anti-Suffrage Review*.

"I would mention that your letter, in any case, reached me too late for inclusion in the June *Review*."

Miss Crookenden, Secretary of the N.U., replied as follows:—

"June 13th, 1914.

"DEAR MADAM,—I showed your letter of June 5th to Miss Courtney, and she desired me to draw your attention to the fact that you have not given her your authority for asserting that the statement attributed to her was made in the course of a debate at Epsom on October 27th, 1911.

"DEAR MADAM,—I am asked by the Editor of the *Anti-Suffrage Review* to state that the authority for asserting that the statement is attributed to Miss K. D. Courtney rests on notes taken of Miss Courtney's speeches.

The remark attributed to Miss Courtney was also made by her in a debate at Ladbroke Hall in 1911 shortly before the Epsom meeting."

"HELEN PAGE, Assistant Secretary."

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News from the Societies and Federations.

[As complaints have been received that names are often wrongly spelt in THE COMMON CAUSE *reports, Secretaries are asked to* WRITE ALL NAMES DISTINCTLY.*]*

London Society.

BATTERSEA.—The first open-air meeting was held on May 27th, when Miss Hoblyn took the chair and Mrs. Watson spoke. A very interested crowd gathered and several questions were asked. Ten copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

CAMBERWELL.—On June 5th an open-air meeting was held at the corner of Church Street and Camberwell Grove. The speakers were Miss Gloyn and Miss Elkin.

CLAPHAM.—On May 29th an open-air meeting was held at the Triangle, "Plough," Clapham Common. A large and interested audience was addressed by Miss Stoehr, Mrs. Rogers, Miss Hoblyn, and Miss Fyffe. Several questions were asked, twenty copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, and thirty-three "Friends" enrolled. This meeting was held principally to advertise the South London Mass meeting to be held in Clapham Public Hall on June 4th.

On June 3rd an open-air meeting was held by the Clapham and Kennington branches, at the corner of Aristotle Road and Clapham High Street in order to advertise the Clapham Hall joint meeting of June 4th. The speakers were Miss Agnes Dawson and Mrs. Paul Campbell, and there was a large and interested audience. Three new members and thirty-eight "Friends" were enrolled, and eighteen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

Joint meeting of the Battersea, Brixton, Clapham, Kennington, and North Lambeth Societies—June 4th—held in Clapham Public Hall. Twenty-four new members signed forms and paid subscriptions amounting to £2 12s. 6d. Eight others signed membership forms and promised to send subscriptions on, making thirty-two altogether. Thirty-three "Friends" were enrolled. Collection after paying Actresses' Franchise League, royalty, etc., amounted to £1 7s. Seventy-seven copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold. Resolution passed with only two dissentients.

"A Chat with Mrs. Chicky," performed by Miss Kitty Willoughby as Mrs. Holbeach and Miss Nora Hastings as Mrs. Chiqué, under the auspices of the Actresses' Franchise League, evoked much enthusiasm and roars of laughter. An Anti-suffragist confessed to having been converted by the speech of Mrs. Rackham and forthwith joined the Society and specially mentioned she would like the fact made known; another gentleman who attended a Suffrage meeting for the first time on this occasion was also converted and became a member. Chair, Miss Helen Ward.—Speakers, Mrs. Rackham, The Lady Betty Balfour. Vote of thanks moved by Mr. Gilbert Dale and seconded by Mrs. McDade, M.D.

DEPTFORD.—Open-air meetings were held on May 26th at the Victualling Yard, speaker, Miss Goddard, and on May 29th at the corner of Brockley Road, speaker, Mr. A. Church, and Miss Goddard. In each case there was a large and sympathetic audience. Twenty-two "Friends" were made and thirteen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

On June 5th an open-air meeting was held at the corner of Pepys Road, the speakers being Miss D. Brown and Miss M. Hamilton. Nine copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

E. DULWICH.—On the evening of May 25th a very successful meeting was held at 46, The Gardens, Peckham Rye, when Miss Royds read a most interesting paper. Two new members joined.

EALING.—The open-air campaign commenced on May 22nd, when two successful meetings were held on Haven Green and at Melbourne Avenue, West Ealing, at 5.30 p.m. and 8 p.m., respectively. Miss Rinder spoke at the earlier meeting with Mrs. Vane Turner in the chair, and Mrs. Abbott addressed the Melbourne Avenue meeting, Miss Chick presiding. Both audiences gave a respectful and interested hearing. Copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, and at the evening meeting fifteen "Friends" were enrolled before a severe storm drove people to shelter and brought the meeting prematurely to a close.

NORTH KENSINGTON.—The first annual meeting was held on May 26th when rules were adopted and the Committee elected. Miss Rinder gave the members valuable information regarding the working of the Active Service League, and it was resolved to form a Group.

Mrs. Rackham afterwards spoke on the "Policy and Methods of the National Union."

KINGSTON.—At a meeting of the Shop Assistants' Union on May 18th a debate on Women's Suffrage was held, the speakers being Miss Logan and Mr. Belsey. A general discussion followed when Miss Stubbs and Mrs. Horner spoke. No vote was taken but the feeling of the meeting seemed to be in favour of Women's Suffrage.

MARYLEBONE.—Two open-air meetings have been held. On May 27th, when Mr. Rolleston Stables and Miss Elkin were the speakers, and on June 3rd when Miss Cockle and Mrs. Watson spoke, the chair being taken by Mr. Joseph Pingree.

NEW MALDON.—A public meeting was held on May 20th in the Lecture Hall, Mrs. Rackham, P.L.G., and Mr. R. Cholmeley, M.A., were the speakers, Mr. H. Ellis, J.P., S.C.C., being in the chair.

The resolution was carried unanimously, five members joined and over twenty "Friends" were enrolled. Thirty-seven copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

N. & S. PADDINGTON.—A debate was held at the Ethical Church Hall, Queen's Road, Bayswater, on May 26th. Mrs. Rackham spoke to the following resolution:—"That the Enfranchisement of Women Would Increase the Welfare of the Nation," and Miss Gladys Pott opposed. No vote was taken. The hall was crowded and a very large number of questions were put. Twenty-six copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold. The chair was taken by Councillor Constable, and Mrs. L. B. Franklin moved the vote of thanks to the speakers and chairman.

PECKHAM.—On May 22nd an open-air meeting was held at the corner of Nigel Road and Rye Lane. The chair was taken by Mr. Watson, and Miss Fielden and Miss Stoehr addressed a most interested crowd.

On May 27th Miss Goddard addressed a meeting of The Guild of Good Templars in the Schoolroom, Peckham Rye Tabernacle. The audience were much interested and framed and passed a Suffrage resolution. Twenty "Friends" were made.

RICHMOND.—A meeting was held with conspicuous success by the Citizens' Club, on May 13th, when Miss Foster Newton (Hon. Sec. B.W.T.A., Richmond) took the chair and Mrs. Bonwick gave an address on "Women's Suffrage and Temperance Reform." Two new members were made and twelve copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

W. ST. PANCRAS.—On May 27th an open-air meeting was held at the corner of Park Street and Arlington Road, the speakers being Miss Fielden, Miss Stoehr and Miss Rinder. Forty-two "Friends" were enrolled and twenty-three copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

STREATHAM.—On May 21st an open-air meeting was held at the corner of Leigham Court Road, the speakers being Miss Cockle, Miss Gloyn, Mrs. Watson, and Miss Hobiyn. There was a large and interested audience. Twelve copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, and eighteen "Friends" enrolled.

On May 28th the last of the series of open-air meetings took place at the corner of Greyhound Lane. The speakers were Miss Fawcett, Miss Hamilton, Miss Fyffe, and Miss Hoblyn. Twelve copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold and ten new "Friends" enrolled.

WIMBLEDON.—On May 26th a very successful social evening was held at the Theatre Assembly Room. The room held 200 people and another 100 tickets might have been sold if there had been room for the people who asked for them. Mrs. Finlay, who presided, spoke on the Scottish Home Rule Bill, and the Rev. G. T. Sadler refuted several Anti-suffrage arguments. The audience much enjoyed the songs given by Mr. W. B. Owen and Miss Cotton Minchin—Mrs. Speed being the accompanist—and the suffrage play "Miss Appleyard's Awakening" acted by Miss Hughes, Miss Ellis, and Miss Webster. Refreshments were provided by members who also did their utmost to make the evening a success, many giving donations towards the expenses. Six new members joined and thirty-seven "Friends" were made. Twenty-seven copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, and good reports of the meeting appeared in the local papers.

BRIXTON.—On May 26th Miss M. Goddard was invited to address the Girls' Club at 73, Brixton-hill; much interest was shown. Some "Friends" were made and the speaker was asked to come again.

A small but interested meeting was held at the local branch of the Women's Labour League on June 8th. Mrs. Hunter gave an address on "Socialism and the Woman's Movement." All present who were not hitherto members, consented definitely to join the London Society.

DENMARK HILL.—On June 9th a very successful meeting was held at St. Matthews Parish Hall, Denmark Hill. The Vicar, Dr. Porte, who had generously lent the hall for this meeting, took the chair, and declared himself a staunch supporter of the Women's Movement. Miss W. Elkin's extremely interesting address was followed by a performance of "Miss Appleyard's Awakening" which was much appreciated by the audience. Six members joined. Twenty-one "Friends" and twenty-five copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

FINCHLEY.—By kind invitation of Mrs. Macfarlane, a united garden meeting of the E. Finchley Women's Liberal Association and the Finchley Branch of the L.S.W.S. was held at Kilmun, N. Finchley on June 10th. Both societies were well represented. The chair was taken by Mrs. Minshull, President of the Women Liberals and Mrs. Baker (N.U.W.S.S.) gave an inspiring address. Tea and discussion followed. Three new members joined.

HAMPTON'S BRANCH.—A drawing-room meeting was held on May 28th, at 3, Park Road. Hostesses, Mrs. Cameron and the Misses Cook. The chair was taken by the Rev. Vivart Jackson; about thirty-five persons were present. After a very inspiring speech by Miss Geraldine Cook ten new members joined the Society and eight copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

KENNINGTON.—On June 2nd Miss Fawcett, Mr. Antony Alsop, and Miss Hoblyn addressed an open-air meeting outside Bingfield Institute to advertise the Clapham and Kennington joint meeting. Several local members attended. Eleven new "Friends" were made and fifteen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

RICHMOND.—The last of the indoor meetings of the Citizen's Club was held on May 27th at the Castle Assembly Rooms, Richmond, when Mrs. Nott-Bower (Poor Law Guardian, Richmond) spoke on "Permissive Legislation" or "What you may do and what you must do on Town and County Councils." The subject and its bearing on the Suffrage question created much interest. Chair, Mrs. Bridge Waker Williams. Five "Friends" were made and several copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

WEST SOUTHWARK.—On May 26th an open-air meeting was held at St. George's Circus addressed by Miss Fielden and Miss Fawcett who were listened to with intense interest by a huge crowd of men. Twenty-five "Friends" were enrolled and five copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

WALWORTH.—On May 26th Miss Anna Martin gave an interesting address to a Browning Hall Women's meeting on "The Legal Disabilities of Wives and Mothers." Mrs. Herbert Stead presided and twenty-five "Friends" were enrolled.

On June 5th Mrs. Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. Alsop, and Miss Deverell addressed a very large open-air meeting at the corner of Liverpool Street. Thirty "Friends" were enrolled and twenty-four copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

West Lancashire, West Cheshire, and North Wales Federation.

ORGANISER'S REPORT.

On May 3rd, Miss Eskrigge spoke by invitation to a Branch meeting of the National Union of Railwaymen at Walton, when the Suffrage resolution was carried unanimously. As usual, the railwaymen proved a most intelligent audience. On May 4th a meeting of the Southport W.S. Society was addressed by Miss Eskrigge on Active Service League work. Though those present seemed interested, none of them could for one reason or another, volunteer for Active Service. From May 6th to 23rd, the organisers were in Anglesey, following up the work that had already been done their with a view to forming an Anglesey Society. The first five days were spent at Rhosneigr, where Miss Thompson had already been so successful in getting signatures to the memorial thanking Mr. Ellis Griffiths for his past support of Women's Suffrage, and urging him to press for the introduction of a Government measure. Mrs. Johnson, Windygates, offered to hold a drawing-room meeting, which was fixed for May 11th. Out of an attendance of thirty-three, twenty-three persons agreed to join the Rhosneigr group, Mrs. Johnson acting as correspondent, with the help of Mrs. Noble. At the meeting, Miss Eskrigge took the chair, and Mrs. Norbury, who was staying at Rhosneigr, spoke. It is satisfactory that a large number of those who joined are Welsh-speaking residents. Mrs. Noble kindly undertook to try and sell some N.U. pamphlets, and was supplied for this purpose.

At Llangefni, a public meeting was arranged on May 15th, in a small room in the Town Hall. The Rev. Maelor Hughes presided, and Mr. David Thomas (of Talysarn) and Miss Eskrigge spoke. The room was comfortably full, and several members joined, so that about a group of about eighteen members was formed, for which Mrs. Floyd (Tanygraig) will act as correspondent. Mr. David Thomas most kindly consented to speak for Suffrage again in the Market on May 21st, but he could only spare a short time, and though the audience needed more, English-speaking was no use. However, the little meeting seemed to show that open-air meetings are not only possible but successful. There was no sign of opposition—though there was some amusement at Woman Suffrage.

A public meeting was held at Llanerchymedd, on May 14th, when there was an audience of two-hundred. Alderman J. McKillip took the chair, and Mr. Vaughan Davies and Miss Eskrigge were the speakers. The Rev. M. Morris and Rev. Owen Thomas aroused much enthusiasm when supporting the vote of thanks to the speakers. The Llanerchymedd group, formed a few days later at a little afternoon meeting, has fourteen or fifteen members, and Miss Berta Roberts, 27, High Street, Llanerchymedd, will be correspondent. At Amlwch (where a public meeting took place on February 27th) a good deal of visiting was done to secure members, and at a small afternoon meeting, a group was formed

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with Mrs. Paynter (Bryntirion) as correspondent. At Cemmaes a meeting to form a group was not so successful as hoped, but a few ladies agreed to join, and Miss Evans Tregeisaf will be correspondent. In each case the groups agreed to try and add to their membership during the summer, and form "reading circles" next autumn. It is also understood that they will be united in the Anglesey Suffrage Society as soon as a Secretary is found. In every place visited by the organisers' they were fortunate in finding one or two women already enthusiastic Suffragists, but the great majority were antagonised by militancy.

BIRKENHEAD.—On May 12th a drawing-room meeting was held at the Beeches, Oxton, by the kind permission of Mrs. F. E. Lowry. Mrs. Ziegler presided. Mrs. McKissack made her first Suffrage speech most successfully, and Miss Cherry followed with a very appealing address. Six ladies joined the Society, and further good results are anticipated.

On May 25th an afternoon meeting for members of the Women's Co-operative Guild and other associations was held in Holyoake Hall. Mrs. Aitken presided. Miss Lathom made an excellent maiden speech, and was followed by Miss Eskrigge with a well-reasoned address. Great interest was shown by the audience, and many of them expressed a desire to have more such meetings—which desire we hope to satisfy shortly.

The Parliamentary Candidates for Birkenhead have been approached by us with regard to their attitude on Women's Suffrage.

The Unionist candidate, the sitting member, Mr. Bigland, has written to the effect that his reply to the three test questions is in the negative, and that in this case no useful purpose would be served by his receiving a deputation from us. The Liberal candidate, Mr. E. D. Morel, consented to receive a deputation on May 29th. He declared himself to be absolutely in sympathy with our question, promised that he would mention it when he issued his election address, but declined to give any pledges with regard to the other questions, on the ground that he never pledged himself on any subject.

CHESTER.—On May 26th a meeting was held at The Holborn Café, when Miss Eskrigge spoke on the Active Service League with reference to a proposed campaign in Eddisbury in July. Miss Tonkinson presided. One new member was enrolled, whilst more than a dozen Suffragists offered to give help in the campaign. Collection 15s. 6d.

LIVERPOOL.—The annual meeting of the Liverpool Society was held on May 28th, in the Hardman Hall, Mrs. Egerton Stewart Brown in the Chair. The report, read by the Acting Secretary, showed a record of good work done during the past year. The newly opened office had greatly stimulated the activities of members, and had also served as a convenient meeting place for Suffrage meetings. The most noticeable feature of the year's work had been the formation in various wards of the city of Women Citizens' Associations, which had been organised with the fourfold object of fostering the sense of citizenship in women, encouraging self-education in civic and political questions, securing the return of women members on the City Council and Boards of Guardians, and attaining by constitutional methods the Parliamentary enfranchisement of women. Branches had been formed in eight wards in the city, with a total membership of nearly 800, and so successful had the experiment been that other places that followed Liverpool's example and were forming similar associations. Many Women Citizens had become full members of the Liverpool Suffrage Society, and sales of literature had increased to a considerable extent.

The Federation report, read by the Hon. Sec., Miss Jessie Beavan, gave an account of the work done by the Federation during the year. After the business was concluded, a public meeting which was largely attended, was held in the same hall and an address was given by Miss Isabella O. Ford, of Leeds, on "The Vote, and a New Civilisation." Miss Ford's address was listened to with marked attention, and at the close of the meeting thirteen new members were enrolled.

LLANDUDNO.—On May 12th, an open-air meeting was held by the Colwyn Bay and Llandudno Societies jointly, at Black Gate, Great Orme, Llandudno, at which Mrs. Keeble and Miss Spencer spoke. Miss Wright was chairman, and twenty-one "Friends" were enrolled. Seven copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, and the "Friends" quarterly and other leaflets given. No collection. The neighbourhood is very poor, but there was a fair attendance of adults, and the large number of children behaved very well.

RHYL.—An Active Service League meeting was held in the Portland Studio. In the absence of Miss E. McPherson (Liverpool) Miss Walton Evans gave an address. Chair, Boyd Robertson, Esq.

WALLASEY AND WIRRAL.—On May 25th, at 7.30, a meeting was held on the sands by Marine Park, New Brighton, the first open-air meeting here in connection with the A. S.L., and a cold bleak night. Miss Leadley Brown and Mrs. Greville Stallybrass (chairman) made excellent speeches, which were listened to by a good crowd. This Society has begun selling copies of THE COMMON CAUSE at the Ferry Gates. On June 8th another meeting on New Brighton sands. Mrs. Bulley addressed a fairly large crowd which collected to hear her, despite cold, wind, and threatened rain. Miss Cherry took the chair at 7.30.

North and East Ridings of Yorkshire Federation.

The Federation Executive Committee met in the office of the Scarboro' N.U. Society on June 11th. Mrs. Edwin Gray, of York, was in the chair. The Hon. Treasurer, Miss Thornton, gave her report, with a further appeal to societies to support the funds of the Federation at this momentous time in the history of Woman's Suffrage. Mrs. E. R. Cross, Hon. Sec. pro tem. read interesting reports from the Federation Organisers, and work in the immediate future was discussed. The societies in the Federation were well represented, and reports of good work done in their various districts were read by their delegates. Much regret was felt at the enforced retirement of Mrs. Catt from the post of Hon. Secretary of the Federation and thanks were accorded to her and also to Mrs. Cross who has been doing the work for the past four months, for their valuable help. Miss E. Barker, a member of the Scalby branch of the N.U. and sister of its Hon. Secretary, Miss J. Barker was elected in place of Mrs. Catt as Hon. Secretary of the Federation.

ORGANISERS' REPORT.

Mrs. Aldersley who has been for some time working in the Cleveland Division reports she has formed one Society, and has visited over twenty separate associations when our resolutions were carried. She addressed all these except the Skelton and Brotton U.D. Council; and also arranged two public meetings, the first at Boosbeck, addressed by Mrs. Earp, the second at Brotton, addressed by Miss Margaret Robertson. She obtained permission to attend the Cleveland Miner's and Quarryman's Council meeting and got a unanimous resolution passed which she followed up by a Petition, with over 100 signatures of voters who have pledged themselves not to vote for their present member unless he will support Women's Suffrage in the House and include it in his next election programme. She has been very well received everywhere, and now some of the miners think that she ought to remain in the district, and the Miners' General Secretary would like her to visit every Lodge in the Federation although some of them are out of the Cleveland Parliamentary Division.

GRIMSBY.—During the recent by-election the interest in Women's Suffrage was very great, and the cause most popular. Only propaganda was undertaken as both candidates are in favour of Women's Suffrage. Miss V. Harris was the organiser in charge, and was ably helped by Miss Barrard, Miss Dunlop, and Miss Scott, the speakers being Mrs. Aldersley and Mrs. Earp. Sixteen outdoor meetings were held, and a record number of 1,000 "Friends" signed cards. Eighteen dozen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold. The Society made a grant of £14 towards expenses and over £6 was collected during the campaign.

On May 19th Miss Helen Fraser spoke on "Sweated Women and the Vote." The meeting took place in the Town Hall, and the Rev. Proudfoot was in the chair. The address was a most interesting and eloquent one and the attendance good. Miss Fraser also spoke in the evening in the Old Market Place, Mr. Wooler was in the chair. This meeting was a huge one, and many questions were asked towards the end. Altogether at this meeting twenty new members joined, fifty "Friends" cards were signed and four dozen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold.

On June 2nd Miss Cicely Barclay kindly gave an At Home in the Prince of Wales's Theatre. Many thanks are due to Mr. Curry for giving the theatre, and providing the tea. About 250 guests were present and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent, listening to the recitations and speeches which were most excellent. Everyone was charmed with Miss Barclay and our Society owes her the best of thanks for helping to draw all our members together socially. Thirty new members joined at this meeting.

HULL.—On April 30th a most successful entertainment was given by members of the Society in All Saints Parish room. "Mrs. Chicky," a "Scene from Nicholas Nickleby" and a short musical programme were fully enjoyed by the audience. Light refreshments were served during the interval.

On May 14th by the kind invitation of Miss McPherson a drawing-room meeting was held at the Lodge School, Pearson Avenue. An excellent address was given by Mrs. Rackham which was much appreciated by all who were present.

On May 19th a well-attended At Home was held in the Lounge of the Metropole. Miss Cecile Barclay gave an interesting address on "The Need of the Franchise from an Actress's point of View" and recited. Four new members joined and a good collection taken.

MALTON AND DISTRICT.—This Society held the first week of its Lightning Campaign from May 11th to 16th, during Miss Helen Fraser's visit. Miss Fraser spoke at public meetings in Huttons Ambo, Welburn and Slingsby and at a meeting for members and "Friends" in Malton. Much interest and pleasure in Miss Fraser's excellent addresses was shown. Copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold at all the meetings. Miss Fraser also worked in Malton and Norton and she and the Hon. Secretary canvassed the villages of Welburn and Barton-le-Street and distributed literature. It is hoped to follow up this work later. The Society feels much stimulated by her visit and the result of obtaining twenty new members is considered very encouraging in this district.

MIDDLESBROUGH BRANCH.—At a meeting of members held on May 20th it was unanimously decided to carry out a Lightning Campaign during the last fortnight in June, in the hope of doubling the membership. It was also decided that during the summer months the Society should arrange and hold meetings in the surrounding country places, and for this purpose a sub-committee was formed. In this Summer Campaign we hope for the co-operation of Redcar and Saltburn. We commence the work on Friday, June 12th, at Marton, at 6.30 p.m., and we hope local members will endeavour to be present to form the nucleus of an audience.

REDCAR.—May 28th—Mrs. Rackham and the Rev. Llewellyn Smith (Chairman) gave eloquent and inspiring addresses on "The Child and the State." Two members joined making the total 100. Suffrage literature was sold.

SALTBURN-BY-THE-SEA.—May 28th—Meeting in the Towers Gymnasium at 8 p.m.—Chair, The Rev. J. L. Backmay, M.A., of Redcar—Speaker, Mrs. Rackham—Subject, "The Child and the State." About sixty members and others were present. Mrs. Rackham proposed the resolution "That this meeting wishes to reaffirm its demand for the enfranchisement of women, believing that it is for the good of the children of the nation." This was seconded by Mrs. Hornsby and carried unanimously.

SCARBOROUGH.—During April the Society was engaged in working up a jumble sale, which took place on May 9th being held in St. John's Room, St. Sepulchre Street. Everything was cleared off and the substantial sum of £6 5s. realised. Thanks are due to all those who helped to make this a success.

On May 27th a stock exchange sale took place in Matthews's Boarding House which on the whole proved successful, though some regret was felt that not more members were present. However everything brought quickly changed hands, so that in the end nothing was left, a fair sum being realised. Mr. Howard Rowntree (a member of committee) gave a very telling address, and particularly urged those present to make the best use of the excellent opportunity afforded by the coming fortnight of the Lightning Campaign, to gain new members; making especial effort to approach men to become members of the N.U. Literature and copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold. Afterwards tea and coffee, and light refreshments were served. The last quarterly leaflet for the "Friends" has been sent or given to all "Friends" and those that were over were given away to the women attending the jumble sale. The sale of THE COMMON CAUSE steadily continues, and posters are exhibited.

PICKERING AND DISTRICT.—A Committee meeting was held in May, at which Miss E. M. Highfield resigned the post of joint secretary. Mrs. Highfield was appointed President, vice Miss Ida Priestman, who undertook to be Treasurer and Joint Secretary. Miss Harris, organiser, is to visit the district at the end of June, and meetings are being arranged.

YORK.—On May 14th Miss Mary Cudworth (delegate to the Special Council) gave an account of the Council to members in the office. Mrs. Dennis Taylor took the chair, and an interesting discussion on the various resolutions followed.

On May 15th the President entertained the Active Service Leaguers to tea previous to the first Active Service meeting at Askham Bryan. The villagers though somewhat shy listened in groups to addresses from Miss Ramsay and Mrs. Meyer, whilst other Leaguers busied themselves selling copies of THE COMMON CAUSE and getting "Friends" cards signed.

A largely attended open-air meeting was held at Walmgate Bar on May 22nd when Councillor K. E. T. Wilkinson took the chair. Mrs. Meyer, Rev. R. Pyne, and Mr. E. P. Holmes spoke. Four Friends of Women's Suffrage were enrolled and eleven copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold. During the month seventeen dozen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE have been sold through the office.

The Branch is very busy preparing for the Active Service League week when a series of village meetings are to be held.

Oxford, Berks, and Bucks Federation.

ORGANISER'S REPORT.

NEW SOCIETY AT WOLVERTON AND DISTRICT.

May 25th-30th—As a result of the work done at the end of March, a Society has been formed at Wolverton and District, and will affiliate shortly. President, Mrs. Harnett; Secretary, Mrs. Hawkins Ambler.

Meetings were held as follows:—May 26th—Dinner-hour meeting, Wolverton—Chair, Mr. Morgan, N.U.R.—Speaker, Miss Mason. May 26th—Open-air meeting, Newport Pagnell—Chair, Councillor Parrot—Speakers, Miss Mason and Miss Barraud. May 27th—N.U.R., Wolverton, addressed by Miss Mason. May 26th—Public meeting, Stony Stratford—Chair, Rev. S. Cheshire—Speakers, Mrs. Haverfield and Miss Mason. Some new members and nineteen "Friends" enrolled. Collection 9s. 4d. May 29th—Meeting to form Society at St. George's Vicarage, Wolverton—Chair, Rev. W. T. Harnett—Speaker, Miss Mason.

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NORTH OXFORDSHIRE, June 2nd-6th. Signatures were collected in Chipping Norton and Banbury to an "influential memorial" to the Hon. Eustace Fiennes, Liberal Member for N. Oxon, and Mr. Albert Brassey the prospective Unionist candidate.

ASCOT.—May 28th—Annual meeting at Royal Hotel. Miss Violet Eustace took the chair, vice Mrs. Robie Uniacke, who has left the neighbourhood. The Society has just completed the second year of its existence. During the past year the membership has more than doubled. The "Friends of W.S." scheme has been worked for a year and the number of "Friends" is increasing by leaps and bounds. The latest enrolled "Friends," two residents of Ceylon, hope to work in that far-off country on their return to it. The Report and balance-sheet were adopted and election of Officers and Committee took place. Miss Grant, of Farnwood, joined the Executive, vice Miss Margaret Grant whose health obliged her to resign. The financial position is highly satisfactory. After a speech by Miss Sylvia Clark, a resolution was carried expressing gratitude and regret to Mrs. Robie Uniacke, first chairman.

A series of small meetings for "Friends" have been held at Ascot and District, beginning May 27th. Miss Sylvia Clark of the Surrey, Sussex, and Hants. Federation addressed them all. The attendance was fair for the time of the year. Eight new "Friends" and one member were enrolled.

A small open-air meeting was held on June 3rd, at Foliegon Park, Winkfield, for the local members and "Friends," by Mrs. Blane of the Nairn W.S.S. who took the chair; Miss Forrester spoke.

MID BUCKS.—June 3rd—A successful rummage sale was held at Holmer Green. Mrs. Coates gave an excellent speech which was listened to with great interest. About ninety were present. Some "Friends" were enrolled and many asked for literature to give them further information on the movement. An enjoyable tea concluded the proceedings.

June 4th—Annual meeting at Bocken, Great Missenden. About forty members present. Miss Mason spoke, explaining the N.U. Election Policy.

BRACKNELL.—May 6th—Miss Margaret Hamilton ably addressed a drawing-room meeting, kindly held by Mrs. S. P. King George, at The Brackens.

May 13th—A white slave meeting was held in the Temperance Hall. Speaker, Mrs. Vulliamy, of Cambridge. We much regret that there was such a small audience to hear such an interesting speech.

GERRARD'S CROSS.—May 11th—A sale of white elephants, plants, etc., etc., took place at the Assembly Rooms. The takings amounted to £6 15s. 6d.

May 15th—A satisfactory open-air meeting was held on Gold Hill Common. Mrs. Sparkes took the chair. The speakers were Miss Cockle and Miss Fyffe. Questions were asked and the resolution was carried.

HIGH WYCOMBE.—A Divisional Committee has been formed in this constituency and meetings take place at High Wycombe every month. Chairman, Mrs. Schloesser, of Gerrard's Cross; Secretary, Miss Hartopp Nash of Slough.

OXFORD.—June 2nd—Members meeting to discuss Active Service League and Lightning Campaign. Speaker, Miss E. Atkinson. Ten leaguers were enrolled.

EAST BERKS.—The East Berks Societies have now formed a Divisional Committee in preparation for the General Election, and for the purpose of breaking new ground in the constituency. Work has been carried out in Twyford and Wargrave, where Miss Barraud and members of four of the Societies undertook the canvassing for two meetings. At the first, a garden meeting at Mrs. Arthur Schuster's, there was a good attendance from Wargrave; Professor Turner, Savilian Professor of Astronomy at Oxford, was the chairman, and Miss Timpany the speaker. In the evening, a well-attended public meeting was held in the Twyford Assembly Rooms, the chair being taken by Professor Arthur Schuster, F.R.S., and the speakers being Mrs. Timpany and Miss Violet Eustace. As a result of the meetings, eight members and seventy-five "Friends" have been enrolled.

[We are obliged to hold over the reports of the Pangbourne, Windsor, and Wokingham Societies till next week.]

ACTIVE SERVICE LEAGUE.

Eastern Counties Coast Campaign.

The Active Service of the Eastern Counties Federation for 1914 is to be a campaign along the coast from Hunstanton to Southend beginning in the middle of July and lasting to the middle of September. Any Suffragist who will be visiting the East Coast during this time is urgently requested to communicate with Mrs. Vulliamy, Amwell House, Millington Road, Cambridge. Help is needed for the campaign from open-air speakers, sellers of THE COMMON CAUSE, and also from those who are willing to help at meetings to distribute leaflets or collect the signatures of "Friends." Holiday-makers can help without breaking into their holidays, by wearing their badges and coming to meetings.

Kentish Campaign.

The Kentish Federation is organising a considerable amount of Active Service League work and wishes, between now and October to touch every village and town in the Federation. Work has already been begun, speakers, helpers, and hosts are needed, and Miss Griffith-Jones, Federation section leader, will be pleased to hear from members of the Active Service League, and others who will help in Kent during the next four months, even if only for short periods, also from anyone able to give hospitality; she will also welcome financial aid.

Forthcoming Meetings.

London.

JUNE 19.

Queen's Hall—Great Metropolitan Fund Meeting—Speakers, The Bishop of Kensington, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., Mrs. Sidney Webb, Councillor Margaret Ashton, Mrs. Hood (Women's Co-operative Guild)—Admission free, reserved seats, 10s. 6d., 5s., 1s. 6d., 1s.—Doors open 7.30 8.30

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Westminster Palace Hotel—Public Reception—Speakers, The Lady Courtney of Penwith, Miss C. Marshall, Miss Mary Lowndes, Miss Hay Cooper—Chair, Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves—Discussion—Tea 3.30—6.15

JUNE 20.

Mill Hill—Outside the Hale Station, G.N.R.—Open-air Meeting (Active Service League).

JUNE 21.

Hyde Park—Near Reformers' Tree—Speakers, Miss Margaret Robertson and others 3.30

JUNE 22.

East St. Pancras—Corner of Castle Road and Kentish Town Road—Open-air Meeting—Speaker, Miss Gloyn, Miss P. Fawcett 8.0

Greenwich—Corner of Vanbrugh Hill and Woolwich Road—Open-air Meeting—Speakers, Mr. T. Gugenheim, Miss M. Goddard 7.45

North Kensington—Corner of Lancaster Road and Portobello Road, Miss Winifred Elkin, Miss Ellen Walshe 8.30

JUNE 23.

Blackheath—Vanbrugh Castle—Garden Meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Alexander Drickham—Miss Anna Martin on "Mother and the Law."

Lambeth—Corner of Penton Place and Kennington Park Road—Mrs. Hamilton, Miss Fawcett 8.0

JUNE 24.

Holborn—Corner of High Street, Bloomsbury and Charing Cross Road—Open-air Meeting—Miss Eva Gore Booth, Miss Rinder 8.0

Willesden—69, Manor Park Road, Harlesden—Annual Meeting—Speaker, Mrs. Oliver Strachey—Chair, Dr. Granger Evans 5.0

Wimbledon—Broadway—Open-air Meeting—Speaker, Mrs. Abbott—Chair, Mr. F. S. Mallett 8.0

JUNE 25.

North Islington—Corner of Pemberton Gardens and Holloway Road—Open-air Meeting—Speakers, Mrs. H. C. Campbell, Miss Rinder—Chair, Miss McGrigor 8.0

S. Kensington—1a, Holland Walk, W.—Garden Party—Hostess, Miss Holland—Speaker, Mrs. Arthur Savory—Chair, The Lady Maud Parry 3.15

JUNE 26.

Balham—Corner of Ormeley Road—Open-air Meeting—Miss M. Hamilton, Miss Gloyn 8.15

Deptford—Corner of Brockley Road and Lewisham High Road—Open-air Meeting—Miss Ruth Young, Miss Goddard 7.45

Southwark—Corner of Nelson Square and Blackfriars Road—Open-air Meeting—Miss Jameson, Miss Fyffe 8.0

Stratford—Trinity House—13, Water Lane—Garden Meeting—Chair, Miss Helen Ward 4.0

Wandsworth—Open-air Meeting—Mrs Stanbury, Mrs. Watson—Chair, Mr. Watson.

The Provinces.

JUNE 19.

Ambie—Open-air Meeting—Miss Sheard, Miss Armstroy, Miss E. G. Westwood 7.0

Ashford—At The Pump—Open-air Meeting—Speaker, Miss Murray 7.30

Brighton—Meeting—Hostesses, the Misses Mainprice—Mrs. Alys Russell on "The Wider Outlook" 3.30

Broomhill—Open-air Meeting—Miss I. S. A. Beaver, Miss A. E. Westwood 7.0

East Bristol—Berkley Street, Lawrence Hill Station—Open-air Meeting 7.30

Helston—Godolphin Hall—Speaker, Mrs. Whalley—Chair, Col. Courtenay Vyvyan, C.B. 8.0

Ledbury—The Square—Active Service League Meeting—Speakers, Mrs. Cowmeadow, Miss Helen Knight 8.0

JUNE 20.

Hereford—St. Peter's Square—Speakers, Mrs. Cowmeadow, Miss Helen Knight 8.0

Manchester—"Fairhill," Kersal—Garden Meeting and Sale of Work—Speaker, Councillor Margaret Ashton, M.A. 3—6

Sevenoaks—Market Place—Open-air Meeting—Miss P. Fawcett, Miss Griffith Jones 8.0

JUNE 21.

Birmingham—Curzon Street—Mrs. Ring will address the Railwaymen 8.15

JUNE 22.

Barrard Castle—Open-air Meeting—Miss C. M. Gordon, Miss Armstroy, Miss Westwood 7.0

Berkhampstead—Farriers' Hall, High Street—Mrs. Rackham on "The National Union Election Policy" 3.0

Birmingham—Winson Green Sisterhood—Speaker, Mrs. Ring 8.0

Cambridge—20, Green Street—Meeting to welcome new members—Speakers, Mrs. Bethune-Baker, Mrs. Murray—Dialogues—Mrs. Peck and Miss Bowes 8.0

Hyde—Maket Place—Open-air Meeting—Speaker, Mr. Clement Stott—Chair, The Rev. F. Fleming Vaughan, B.A. 8.0

Leeds—Burley Park, or if wet in Labour Institute, St. Matthias Street, Kirkstall Road—Miss I. O. Ford 3.0

Maidenhead—"Abbotsleigh," Cookham Road—Hostess, Miss Duncan—Mrs. Robie Uniacke on "The Lightning Campaign"—Chair, Mrs. Arthur Schuster 2.30

Maidstone—Fairmeadow—Mrs. Rogers 8.0

Manchester—Victoria Park Gates—Open-air Meeting—Councillor Margaret Ashton, M.A., and Mrs. Norbury 7.30

Corner of York Street, Chester Road, Hulme—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Chew 7.30

Salford—Open-air Meeting—Speaker, Mrs. Crane and others 7.30

Middleton-in-Teesdale—Open-air Meeting—Miss Sheard, Miss A. E. Westwood, Miss Andrew 7.0

St. Mary Cray—Co-operative Guild—Miss Griffith Jones 7.30

Wakefield—Flanshaw Hall—Garden Party and Sale of Flowers (Lightning Campaign)—Miss G. Cooke, Mrs. Renton 3.30

Washington—Meeting for Members and "Friends"—Miss I. S. A. Beaver 7.30

JUNE 23.

Birmingham—Acocks Green Women Liberals—Speaker, Mrs. Ring 3.0

Bristol—40, Park Street—Working Party and At Home 3.0

Cockfield—Open-air Meeting—Miss Sheard and Miss Armstoy 7.0

Didcot—Meeting for Women—Speaker, Miss Dora Mason, M.A.—Chair, Miss Nora Marshall 3.0

East Bristol—Barrow Road—Meeting 3.0

Elterwater—Langdale—Open-air Meeting—Miss Muriel Matters 7.30

Guildford—The Suffrage Office—Meeting for Members. Miss Evelyn Atkinson on "The Active Service League and the Lightning Campaign" 3.0

Huddersfield—Active Service League will take 2.30 car to Linthwate—Meeting at Blackcock House at 5 p.m.—Hostess, Mrs. Lockwood—Chair, Miss Siddon 5.0

Maidstone—"Fairmeadow" Miss Griffith Jones 8.0

Manchester—"The Beeches"—W. Didsbury—Garden Party—Hostess, Mrs. Simon—Speaker, Councillor Margaret Ashton, M.A., and others 4—7

Sheringham—Members' Meeting—Speaker, Miss Creak 6.0

Public Meeting—Speaker, Miss Creak—Chair, The Rev. A. S. Duncan Jones 7.0

Staindrop—Open-air Meeting—Miss .I S. A. Beaver, Miss A. E. Westwood 7.0

Synesack and Butterknowle—Open-air Meeting—Miss C. M. Gordon, Miss Westwood, Miss Andrew 7.0

JUNE 24.

Ambleside—Assembly Rooms—Social—Speaker, Miss Muriel Matters 8.0

Bristol—Totterdown Y.M.C.A.—Miss J. M. Baretti 3.0

Cosham—"The Cottage"—Strawberry Tea and Informal Fête.

Evenwood—Open-air Meeting—Miss I. S. A. Beaver, Miss Andrew, Miss Armstroy 7.0

Leeds—Overdale, Roundhay—At Home—Hostess, Mrs. Oldroyd—Speaker, Miss G. Cooke 3.0

Armley Park, or if wet in Temperance Hall, Armley—Miss G. Cooke 8.0

Manchester—"Oakholme," Alexandra Park—Garden Party for Friends of Womens' Suffrage—Hostess, Mrs. Hiller 3.0—6.0

Ramsey—Open-air Meeting—Miss Creak, Mrs. Rackham 8.0

Tonbridge—"Angel Corner"—Mrs. Rogers 8.0

Wallasey and Wirral—New Brighton Sands—Open-air Meeting—Miss Macadam 8.0

West Auckland—Open-air Meeting—Miss Sheard, Miss E. G Westwood 7.0

Witton Park—Open-air Meeting—Miss C. M. Gordon, Miss A. E. Westwood 7.0

Worthing—The Shrubbery, Broadwater (by kind permission of Councillor Ellen Chapman)—Garden Fête, Entertainment, &c., &c.—Admission, 6d. 3.0—7.0

York—"Elvington"—Drawing-room Meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Turton—Mrs. Meyer on "Professions for Women" 2.45

JUNE 25.

Bowness-on-Windermere—Open-air Meeting—Speaker, Miss Muriel Matters 8.0

Bristol—Meeting of Westbury Branch at Mrs. Boothroyd's 3.0

Didcot—Open-air Meeting—Speakers, Miss Dora Mason, M.A., Miss Grace Hadow, Mr. R. C. Phillimore, L.C.C.—Chair, Mr. F. J. R. Cross, J.P. 8.0

East Bristol—Soundwell Road Kingswood—Open-air Meeting 7.30

Hamsterley—Open-air Meeting—Miss C. M. Gordon, Miss Armstroy 7.0

Howdon-le-Wear—Open-air Meeting—Miss Sheard, Miss Andrew, Miss E. G. Westwood 7.0

Levenshulme—Co-operative Assembly Room, Stockport Road—Miss Lucy Cox 8.0

Oxford—13, Linton Road—Garden Meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Whitley—Speaker, Mrs. R. Hobbs—Chair, Mrs. Haverfield

Manchester—Salford—Open-air Meeting—Speakers, Mrs. Muter Wilson, Miss E. Goodger, Mr. Cook, the Rev. W. Whitaker 7.30

Matfield Green—Speaker, Mrs. Rogers 8.0

Wallasey and Wirral—New Brighton Sands—Open-air Meeting—Speaker, Miss C. Leadley Brown—Chair, Miss Cherry 8.0

Whitford—Garden Party—Hostess, Miss Green—The Annual Report of the Bromsgrove Society will be presented—Address by Mrs. Ring 3.0

Witton-le-Wear—Open-air Meeting—Miss I. S. A. Beaver, Miss A. E. Westwood 7.0

JUNE 26.

Crook—Open-air Meeting—Miss Sheard, Miss A. E. Westwood 7.0

Guildford—Grantley Arms, Wonersh—Public Meeting—Speakers, Miss Sheepshanks (Sec., International Suffrage Society), Miss Roslka Schwimmer (Hungary)—Chair, Sir William Chance, Bart. 8.0

Purley—"Highwood," Peaks Hill—Al Fresco At Home—Hostesses, Mrs. and Miss Brailsford—Speaker, Mr. Startup—Recitations by Miss Drummond, music, &c. 8.0

Sunniside—Open-air Meeting—Miss I. S. A. Beaver, Miss Andrew 7.0

Tow Law—Open-air Meeting—Miss C. M. Gordon, Miss E. G. Westwood, Miss Armstroy 7.0

Wallasey and Wirral—New Brighton Sands—Open-air Meeting

Scotland.

JUNE 19.

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—At Home—Miss M. Matters on "The Torch of Feminism"—Chair, Mrs. Cooper-Ross 4.30

JUNE 20.

Armadale—(Active Service League)—Miss Low, Mr. J. McMichael, J.P. Evening

Musselburgh—Haugh Park—Joint Demonstration with I.L.P.—Mr. J. N. Bell (Prospective Labour Candidate, Leigh Burghs), Miss Matters Evening

JUNE 23.

Glasgow—Main Street—Open-air Meeting—Glasgow Society and Tradeston L.R.C.—Speaker, Miss Lucy Shakspeare 8.0

JUNE 24.

Glasgow—Pollok Street—Open-air Meeting—Glasgow Society and Tradeston L. R. C.—Speakers, Miss Stuart Paterson, Miss Lucy Shakspeare 8.0

JUNE 25.

Blackridge—(Active Service League)—Miss Gordon, Mr. Johnstone evening

Election Fighting Fund Campaign.

JUNE 19.

Binchester Blocks—Speaker, Miss St. John 7.0

JUNE 21.

Houghton-le-Spring—Shiny Row—Miss Sheard 7.30

JUNE 23.

Houghton-le-Spring—Monkwearmouth—Miss Beaven 7.30

JUNE 24.

Newtongrange—Miss Pressley Smith 7.15

Coming Events.

NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—Tuesday, June 23rd, at 3 p.m. New Constitutional Hall, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge. Debate on Women's Suffrage. Mr. Horace Crawfurd for the motion, Mrs. Macdonald of the N.L.O.W.S.) against. Chair, Miss Alexandra Wright, B.Sc.

SUFFRAGE SUMMER SCHOOL, University Hall, St. Andrews, Scotland.—11th August to 8th September, 35s. a week. Board, lodging, lectures, and practical work. Under the auspices of the Scottish Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies.—For details apply to Miss Alice Crompton, M.A., 2, St. Andrew-sq., Edinburgh.

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SUFFRAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

HUMOROUS SUFFRAGE RECITATION.—"SHOWIN' SAMYEL." (Post free, 4d.) By Author of "A Chat with Mrs. Chicky."—Apply, Miss Glover, c/o Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, 48, Dover-street, Piccadilly.

MISS NELLIE HORNE, Lecturer on Voice Production. Conductor of Speakers' Classes, Summer Suffrage Schools (Malvern 1912, St. Andrews 1913), Suffrage Societies' Classes (Manchester, Birkenhead, &c.). Elocution in all its branches. Classes or private tuition.—Prince's Chambers, John Dalton-st., Manchester.

THE BETTERMENT BOOK ROOM, 40b, Rosslyn-hill, Hampstead, has a special poster-room, in which are displayed the Suffrage Posters of the Suffrage Atelier. Several new designs. These posters also on sale at Room 28, 2, Robert-st., Adelphi, W.C., or by post from the Suffrage Atelier, 6, Stanlake-villas, Shepherd's Bush.

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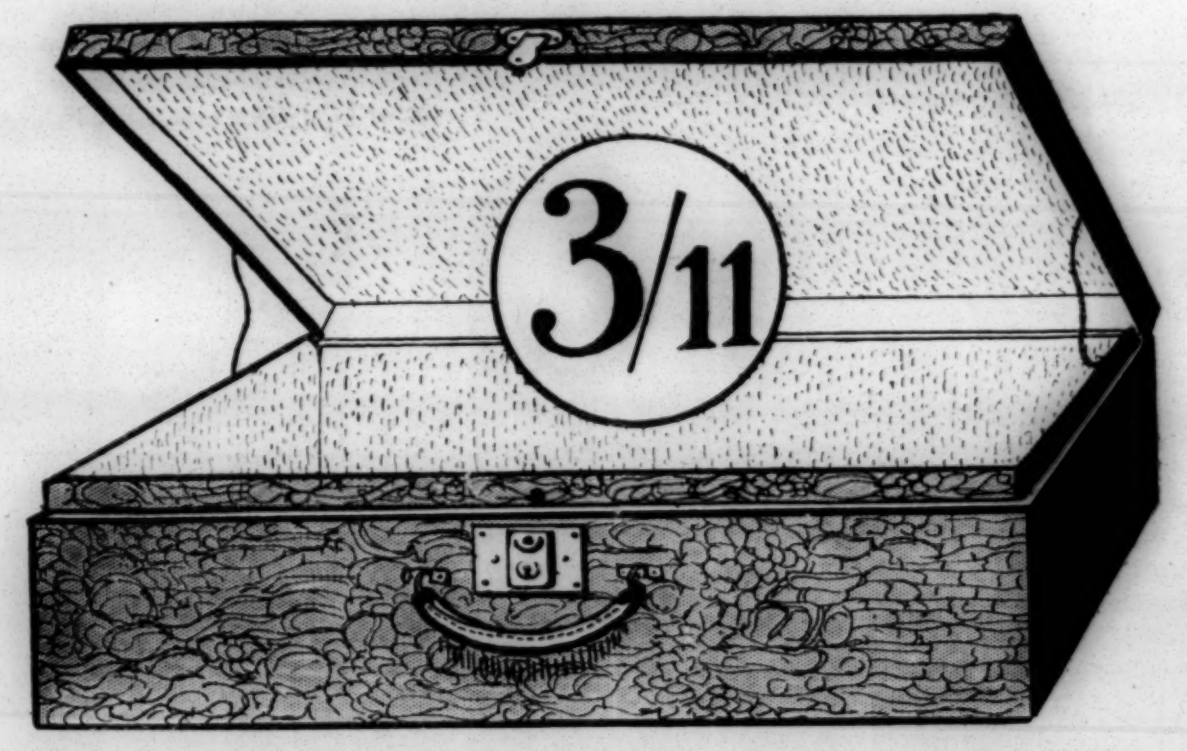

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